

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Meeting the Master John 1:35-42

We are beginning our study of 1 Peter. Let us turn in our Bibles to **1 Peter 1** and read the very first verse. **“Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen.”** We will begin with the very first word, “Peter.” If we are going to fully appreciate this epistle we need to become fully familiar with its author.

Michelangelo it is said, was walking past a discarded piece of marble when he exclaimed, “I see an angel in there!” His genius could see the potential others had overlooked. Of course, whether an angel ever emerged from that block of marble was fully and totally dependent on the sculpture’s own plan and initiative, certainly not on the block of marble.

Christ can see in us what we or others may not be able to see. He can see what we can or will become through Him. He could see in Zaccheus the dishonest tax collector, an honest tax collector. He could see in an immoral woman a worshiper who would delight the heart of God. He could see in Paul the persecutor, Paul the proclaimer of Christianity. He could see in Peter an ordinary man with a volatile personality, the future leader of the early church.

When Peter was growing up in the town of Bethsaida (John 1:44), I am sure no one would have ever guessed that he was destined for greatness. He later along with his family moved to Capernaum (Mark 1:21-29). While in Capernaum Peter along with his brother Andrew became involved with two other brothers named James and John in a fishing business (Luke 5:10). At best Peter had very little academic training. Jewish leaders later in his life clearly recognized his lack of a formal education (Acts 4:13). But in spite of Peter’s simple ambitions and lack of education he has gone down in the history of the Church as truly a great man.

When did the life of this simple fisherman begin to change? It began to change upon meeting the Master. When he, figuratively speaking, a block of ordinary marble, met Jesus. This initial meeting is recorded for us in the Gospel of John. Hopefully we will come to appreciate the fact that IN CHRIST it is not nearly so important what we are, as much as it is what we can, should, and will become. Let us turn in our Bibles to **John 1:35-42**.

1. What was presently true of Peter

As we have already shared with you Peter was a fisherman. A man of humble means. He probably would have been happy with a fishing business that would simply meet his basic needs and the needs of his family. Beyond this we learn from the Gospels that he was a man of passion. He was a man that felt deeply and could at any point in time be controlled by those passions. However, all this was about to change and it began with a man named John the Baptist.

John the Baptist in **John 1:19-28** had made it very clear that he was not the Messiah. Rather he said in **V. 23**, **“I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord, as Isaiah the prophet said.”**

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

He went on to say in V. 27 **“It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am unworthy to untie.”** Following this particular incident on the very next day it tells us in V. 29 that upon seeing Jesus coming to him he said, **“Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (30) This is He, on behalf of whom I said, “After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.”** And just in case we may not understand the significance of what he has just said, John went on to say in V. 34 **“And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”** All of this has preceded the passage that we will now begin to examine. All of this preceded Christ’s first meeting with Peter, and could have very easily have taken place without his knowledge..

VERSE 35, **“Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples.”** This is of course John the Baptist again. Rather than being in the midst of a large crowd as he was the day before, only two disciples were standing near him.

VERSE 36, **“And he looked upon Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold the Lamb of God.”** The Greek word for “looked” is EMBLEPO. This is the intensive form of the Greek verb “to look.” What actually was happening was that John was gazing upon Jesus. What is such a wonder in all this is the fact that John had known Jesus all his life. I am sure that you will remember that the family of John and the family of Jesus were very close. In fact Mary the mother of Jesus, and Elizabeth the mother of John, were relatives. (Luke 1:36). But even in spite of this familiarity you have John “gazing” at Jesus as he walks by even after all these years. And as he was gazing at Jesus he once again calls out, in the hearing of his disciples, **“.....behold the lamb of God.”**

VERSE 37, The disciples of John could restrain themselves no longer. They knew that they wanted to meet this person who their teacher was continually pointing to. **“and the two disciples heard him speak and they followed Jesus.”** They must have been following Jesus very closely or very loudly. Let us read the very next verse.

VERSE 38, **“And Jesus turned, and beheld them following, and said to them, ‘What do you seek?’** They answered His question with another question. **“..... and they said to Him, ‘Rabbi (which translated means. Teacher), where are you staying?’”** They obviously wanted to follow Him to where He was staying so that they might talk with Him. And Jesus quickly extended to them an invitation..

VERSE 39, **“He said to them, ‘Come and you will see.’ They came therefore and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.”** These two disciples stayed with Jesus that day. It tells us that it was about the “tenth hour.” Computing this as a Jew would understand it. This would make it about 4:00 PM. These two disciples apparently went back to where Jesus was staying in late afternoon. and would spend a number of hours with Him. During this meeting they apparently became absolutely convinced that Jesus was the Christ, the promised Messiah of Israel. Incredible as it seemed, this was the One they had been waiting for!!!! They were so moved that one of them now leaves the company of Jesus in order to find his brother.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

VERSE 40, **“One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.”** We now discover the identity of one of the two disciples of John and his name was Andrew. The other disciple with Andrew would have most likely been John, the writer of the gospel who throughout the Gospel will never refer to himself by name. Of these two men, Andrew and John, it was Andrew that could not contain himself. He had discovered something very special and even though it was most likely dark at this time, he immediately went to find his brother.

VERSE 41, **“He found first his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ which translated means Christ.”** Andrew, although obviously a man of action still stands in sharp contrast to his flamboyant, famous brother. He is not recorded as having preached any sermons; he did not make any rash promises, nor did he ask any impertinent questions. But he was active behind the scenes bringing people to Christ. Certainly this one thoughtful act alone is sufficient to assure Andrew a place in history. Certainly it must have been a thrill for Andrew to see the way his brother would eventually be used in building the Church of Christ and to know that he had a part in that.

How many here have heard of the man Edward Kimball? He was D.L. Moody’s Sunday School teacher who lead him to Christ. Can you imagine what he must have felt like as D.L. Moody went on to become the greatest Bible teacher in America. Many of you may have heard of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, he came to place his trust in Jesus Christ alone for his salvation as he listened to a lay preacher who preached in a primitive British chapel on the text, **“Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth.”** What a joy for that lay preacher in the years ahead to look back on that day when he had the privilege of sharing the gospel with a man who would have such a great impact on the church.

VERSE 42, So Peter drug himself out of his house and followed Andrew to where Jesus was staying. As he entered the room the passage tells us that Jesus “looked” at him. The same word that we encountered earlier, (EMBLEPO) Jesus was gazing at Peter. “He was gazing at Peter, and I imagine He was looking at Peter in the same way a sculptor would look at a block of marble. Then he speaks, **“You are Simon the son of John.”** Jesus at this point knew much more about Peter than his name which means, “God has heard” or his lineage, as being the Son of John. He knew Peter intimately. This is clear from the very next phrase which we will discuss in a moment. This intimate knowledge of Peter should not surprise us.

Jesus knew Andrew’s brother even before he had met him. He does not simply know of him, but He knew him. How did He know him? In **Heb. 4:13** speaking of the Lord it says, **“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”**

Occasionally God selects His leaders from among those of noble birth, the intelligent, or the gifted. But usually He uses the common clay pot or ordinary stone. The unadorned and simple home of a fisherman named John, Jesus was about to select a stone. A stone not particularly beautiful but chosen.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Christ knew Simon's true character, his strengths and weaknesses, his aspirations, insecurities, and disappointments. Christ knew his vocation, his secret thoughts. He knew how Simon would respond to all the twists and turns that lay in his path. Christ's knowledge was so exhaustive that He could have written a whole library of books on one whose name was Simon, son of John!! And yet he still chose Peter to be a very special work of His grace.

The very same thing could be said about us as well. He knows everything about our lives, the good and the bad and yet even with that knowledge He has chosen us, as His children to be a very special work of His grace..

But the story does not end there , PRAISE THE LORD!! Not only did Jesus know what was presently true of Peter but He also knew what could and would be true of Peter.

2. What could be, and would be, true of Peter Jesus did not simply say **“You are Simon son of John”** Jesus went on to say **“You shall be called Cephas” which translated means Peter.**” Jesus is giving Simon another name. In the Aramaic the name is Cephas and in the Greek the name is translated Peter. His name means “Rock.”

There is a story of a painter who saw a beggar whose clothes were tattered, hair unkempt, and his face dirty. The artist decided to paint the man as he might have looked if he had had the dignity of a job and home. When he invited the beggar to see the painting, the beggar did not recognize himself. “That’s me?” he asked, “Yes,” said the artist, “That’s what I see in you.”

Christ, the artist, saw not the Peter who WAS but the Peter he would become. **“You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas.”** (which translated means Peter). Simon was the name given to him by his parents; Rock was the name given to him by Christ.

What does Rock affirm? A rock signifies stability, dependability, permanence. The man who builds his house on the rock can withstand the storms of life. Though everything else may be swept away, the rock stands firm. This may not sound like the Peter we are familiar with in the Gospels. But as Jesus looked at him He knew what he was to become. Simon's insecurities and fears would be turned into a monument of God's unfailing grace.

This process of change is not easy on the marble block. A sculptor was asked, “how do you sculpt an elephant?” to which he replied, “I just take a block of marble and chisel away everything that isn't elephant!” When God chooses us, He shapes us so that everything standing in the way of our usefulness is cut away. His focus is not on what we DO, but on what we ARE, in the hidden parts of the soul. The shaping of character is always His first priority. People, circumstances, and the unseen battles within the heart become His chisel to fashion us after His liking. He cuts away everything that isn't like Christ. Was the Lord successful with Peter?

When is the last time Peter is referred to in the New Testament? We might be tempted to say that it is in the Book of Acts, or in his own epistles. But his name is inscribed in the New Jerusalem, and will be there forever as a testimony to his faithfulness.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

We read, “**And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb**” (Rev. 21:14). Peter’s name, along with that of the other apostles, is permanently engraved in one of the pillars of the Holy City! Clearly a man of unbridled passion had become the rock.

CONCLUSION

There is no transformation without pain. With every bit of change, we die a bit more to ourselves. The Divine Sculptor wounds us that He might mold us; He breaks us that He might straighten us.

As the shaping begins we can say with John Newton

I am not what I ought to be
I am not what I want to be,
I am not what I hope to be,
But thank God
I am not what I used to be.

The first step is to submit to the Man with a loving heart who has a chisel in His hand. AS YOU DO THIS HE WILL SAY TO YOU , YOU ARE DALE, SON OF FRANK, BUT YOU SHALL BE A NEW CREATION FIT FOR THE WORK OF THE MASTER