

## WHEN JESUS ... Turns Hearts - June 16 - Pastor Peter

Malachi 4:4-6 "Remember to obey the Law of Moses, my servant - all the decrees and regulations that I gave him on Mount Sinai for all Israel. Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers."	QUESTIONS:  1. How do we influence our children to know and follow Jesus?
1. Being an influence	
Phil. 4:9 "Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me - everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you."	
1 Cor. 11:1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."	2. Why is this important?
Paul is saying, 'follow my pattern, let me be a model you can imitate, step in my footsteps as I step in the footsteps of Christ the ultimate example.'	
Influencers understand the power of the example they set for the generations behind them.	
1 Sam. 13:22 "So on the day of the battle none of the people of Israel had a sword or spear, except for Saul and Jonathan."	3. What is the comparison of parents with
Everybody, other than Saul and Jonathan, has to go into battle without any weapons.	blacksmiths in Pastor Peter's sermon?
1 Sam. 13:19 "There were no blacksmiths in the land of Israel in those days. The Philistines wouldn't allow them for fear they would make swords and spears for the Hebrews."	
There were no blacksmiths making weapons to give to them.	
Don't send your kids into the world without weapons.	
They need somebody to give them weapons that aren't worldly, but are mighty and able to pull down strongholds.	

They need somebody to give them the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.	QUESTIONS:  1. What happens when people see God from the
What is the outcome of my influence?	distance?
2. Be Spiritually Strong	
And when Jesus turns hearts, we'll be spiritually strong.	
Matt. 14:25-30 "About three o'clock in the morning Jesus went out to them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw Him	
walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, 'It's a ghost!' But Jesus spoke to them at once. 'Don't be afraid,' He said. 'Take courage. I am here!' Then Peter called to Him, 'Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.' 'Yes, come,' Jesus said. So Peter went over the side	
of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.But when he	
saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. 'Save me, Lord!' he shouted."	2. What is Peter actually walking on when he steps outside of the boat?
When people only see God from a distance, it's not unusual that they fear Him.	
Jesus shouts, 'Don't be afraid. I'm here.'	
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Peter shouts back, 'Lord, if it's really You, tell me to come to you, and I'll walk on the water too.' Jesus shouts back, 'come.'	
So Peter steps out of the boat and he walks.	
	3. Why should we walk on God says?
But what is he actually walking on?	
He's actually walking on the power and authority of what Jesus says.	

Jesus says, 'come', and it's Jesus' Word that he's standing on.

We need to be spiritually strong.	QUESTIONS
God's Word is true. God's Word is powerful. God's Word is holy. God's Word is eternal.	Where is our true value?
Matt. 28:20 " I am with you always, even to the end of the age."	
Prov. 18:10 "The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly run to Him and are safe."	
You can be spiritually strong. And you get your strength from standing on God and what He says.	2. Why do think Adam shift blame on his mistake?
3. Take Responsibility	
And when Jesus turns hearts, we take responsibility.	
Gen. 3:11 "'Who told you that you were naked?' the Lord God asked. 'Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?'"	
Gen. 3:12 "The man replied, 'It was the woman You gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.'"	3. How necessary is it for us to take responsibility of our actions?
'It wasn't my fault, it was hers.' 'And, in fact, You gave her to me so it's kind of Your fault.'	
Take responsibility.	
Responsible For Our Actions	
We're responsible for our actions.	
Your value isn't in what you do and how well you do it.	
Your value is in who God says you are.	
You're chosen. You're blessed. You're forgiven. You're a child of God. You're in Christ.	
Responsible For Our Lives	

John 4:34 "Then Jesus explained: 'My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent Me, and from finishing His work."
John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent Me, not to do My own will."

And with turned hearts, we want to do God's will as well.

God calls you to do what He wants.

## 4. A Higher Purpose

When Jesus turns hearts we live with a higher purpose.

Heb. 12:1,2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne."

Here's how we fulfill our higher purpose.

We drop off the weight that slows us down.

We get rid of the sin that trips us up.

We follow the example set by Jesus and we keep looking to Him.

We live by a higher purpose. We look for a greater reward.

## **TAKFAWAYS**

1. The bigger influence is at home, even when you don't see it. It may seem sometimes that our children hear and follow more the influence of what they see and hear outside of our homes, but it not true. The biggest influence for them is their parents and family. If our homes are strongly based in Jesus, they will experience being raised in a home with biblical values. Values that will influence how they understand and interact with what the world tries to influence in them.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. How do we fulfill our higher purpose?
2. What is your purpose in life?
3. What is the reward you are looking for in life?

That is why it is vital to raise our children in Christ centered homes where they can experience first hand the influence of God in the lives of their parents. We are the mirror they are seeing themselves reflected on, even if they don't admit it.

- 2. Walk on the power and authority of his word. When Jesus called on Peter to approach him, he walked on water. The power of Jesus enabled Peter do to so. How did he enable Peter? By just saying "Come". With that command, the laws of nature, as we know them, were bent by the creature of them so Peter could do something we understand is not possible. All of a sudden the water became a solid floor in which Peter could walk on, but it was still wetting his sandals. It was still getting into his eyes with all the wind blowing. The storm didn't stop, Peter walked through the storm because Jesus allowed him to, and nature had no choice but to obey. That is all we need. The word of God spoken to us and we will be able to walk through our storms.
- 3. **Its time to be accountable**. We can't hide from our responsibilities for our actions, and it starts by recognizing our bad decisions as well as the good ones. Take responsibility and mend ways. Be accountable. That also includes our lives. How we live it. Is it serving God or serving ourselves? That is something we are also accountable for.
- 4. A higher purpose. Our purpose in life is not to achieve worldly rewards but to thankfully serve the Lord because we have been given so many things without us deserving them, like grace, salvation, mercy, love, blessing. Our purpose is not limited to this world and what it can offer because our sights are set on the eternal prize that is eternity with Jesus. We serve and we follow a higher purpose in Jesus Christ.

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	THIS TO MY LIFE?
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