

Slanderer of Peter

An Accepted Form of Idolatry

by

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The Word from the Bible

Matthew 16:13-21

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his **disciples**, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And **they said**, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto **them**, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God**. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon **this rock** I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Then charged he his **disciples** that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his **disciples**, how that **he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.**

John 18:28-38

Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover. Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death: That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die. Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world**: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but **now is my kingdom not from hence**. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

John 16:5-14

But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?

But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

John 21:18-19

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Chapter One

Thou Art Peter

God sometimes uses what we might consider a peculiar method of delivering His message and specifically His prophecy. Sometimes in the middle of a flowing connected stream of text He will insert a detour into a prophetic utterance; a topic that is not directly related to the flow of thought as we humans would consider proper communication. This is very much present in Psalms and Isaiah, and many others of the prophetic books of the Bible. So we must be ready to zig when He zigs and zag when He zags.

This is what was done in the discourse with Christ's disciples where Jesus renamed Simon based on his character. Jesus has taken a detour into specific recognition of Peter's receipt of the truth. Jesus did not continue with a treatise on the virtues of being Peter; this is only a moment's interlude consisting of three words. Once these words are uttered Jesus turns his attention away from Peter and back to the disciples as a group.

There are key object lessons for us in all our various walks with God. Among these lessons is to not take a position where you think that you've caught the flow of God's logic and can thus finish the sentences for Him. Another is to always be diligent and understand every word and every message, sub-message, micro-message, and subordinate thought within the macrocosm of God's journey with you and me. God's word to us is part of His journey with us and of our journey with Him. For if we attempt to rush God to a conclusion about any individual, whether that decision is for good or for evil, we may end up slandering that individual before man. And this will only serve to slander us before God.

And be sure to take the words of any individual, organization or principality or power and filter them against the word of God. At a minimum do a word search through the Bible to see if that word is contained therein. And if it is not, take the word to God and ask for His guidance. And if by chance you feel uncomfortable trying to parse the word of God for yourself, give place to the Holy Spirit that is available to you for your instruction. Whenever you get into any kind of doubt about God's purpose, refresh your recollection by reading the words contained in the Bible in John 16:5-14, referenced above.

Above all, when wielding authority, please remember that the authority in the universe flows from God through Jesus Christ on the wings of the Holy Spirit. It only resides in man as a gift from God and not as property that mankind can *renovate* to fit its environment; nor can mankind *beautify* it to serve its tasks. God the Holy Spirit is beautiful enough without embellishment. It is He who is the power within the humanly perceivable interactions called the Father and Son. None can change God and God will never have a reason to change Himself.

The simple expression "Thou art Peter" ends the focus on the man Peter. To continue the lesson Jesus moves on to the meat of the matter; and that meat is that he, Jesus of Nazareth, is indeed the Christ, the Son of the living God. However, since there has been much discussion

about the role of Peter in the church of Christ, let's trace his roots. Let us trace the transformation of Peter the fisherman to Peter the disciple. Let us trace through the Bible to discover what it meant to him to serve the "Christ, the Son of the Living God". Let us understand Peter's makeup and, by doing so, determine what he would tell us about his place in the church of Jesus Christ and his role in the kingdom of God. Let's give the man a chance to speak for himself from the pages of the Bible. Then after we have truly heard him, let us discard as anathema anything that does not fit first with the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, and second with the words of the apostles as inspired by the Holy Spirit of God.

*Sometimes you may try
So hard to be
More than God
Has decided for thee.*

*When you take a look
At His marvelous plan
And say within yourself
There must be a way for man*

*To intercede
On behalf of the Lord;
Maybe this is our way
To keep from being bored;*

*Or maybe there's something
More to what we do,
And our motive for action
Is not at all true.*

*For if our aim is to
Place within God's goal
A marker for man
To satisfy his soul.*

*We might find that we
Are doing another's will,
The one who means us
Only ill.*

*For Satan also wants to
Change the way
That man interact
With God from day to day.*

*Satan wants to place
His throne on high
And thus by his actions
God to defy.*

*My fellow servants
Please be aware
That God's plan is complete*

So with it take care

*That you add not one
Jot nor one tittle
Or in any way modify it
Not even a little;*

*For the soul you enslave
May be your brother's,
And **God** will recompense
You for harming another.*