

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

February 5, 2023 "Seeing ourselves in the 12. Peter: A house built on pride."

I Intro.

We're solidly in 2023 now. The new year will bring some new and innovative ideas in all areas of our church life. We have seen an increased activity in our children's ministry, and we're working on new ideas for both our children and our students. We have many ways you can plug into life at NCC. You can find all those through our website, app, and social media sites. Our app is the best way to livestream our services, but you can also livestream on FaceBook and YouTube. You can revisit past services, sign up for events and even give. We're encouraged by your presence when you gather with us. New and familiar faces join us every Sunday. If you join us online, we appreciate your presence. We are 100% committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is anything you need, prayer, or anything else, please let us know. This is our weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work through from Sunday's message. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing. You can use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. We hope you find this tool helpful on your spiritual journey.

II Sunday.

Sunday we began a new series. As you can see above, it's finding ourselves in those that followed Jesus. This is identifying the struggles we have by looking at those close to Jesus who struggled also. Hopefully this will connect us with our own humanity and the ways we can address some of the struggles we face. Today we talk about pride. Not only the issue of pride itself, but how other aspects of our behavior can be connected to our pride. And we start with asking about control issues. Now before we 'freak out' about being labeled a control freak, let me ask you some questions.

How do you struggle with wanting to be in control?

How has this affected your relationships with others?

Where do you believe pride may be a cause of wanting to be in control?

Our scripture today was found in the calling of Peter found in **Luke 5:1-11**. Read it and we'll do the usual questions.

What jumped out to you from this passage?

It seemed that Peter was caught in the cycle of only depending on himself. How could the belief in self sufficiency have made it difficult to obey Jesus?

Do you often feel the weight or pressure of being dependent only on yourself?

What we see in this passage is a man who obviously takes his career very seriously, and wants to be the best he can be. Probably to support his family too. But if we look deeper in the story, we can see that the fact he's been fishing all night, might be a sign he would never admit he couldn't on his own. And Peter would even work himself into utter exhaustion trying to rely on his own ability and knowledge, rather than allow others to help him.

Here are some truths of ways to battle pride, I believe we can pull from this passage, AND what we know about Peter's life.

1. Hold your beliefs loosely and be open and curious. Peter; *"We didn't catch any fish but I'm willing to try again."* All we know about anything is from our personal experiences, and what we were willing to accept from other people. These beliefs can be true, but often very situational. We can trust

our personal experiences, (I didn't catch any fish), but that doesn't mean that's all the truth there is. Know there is always more truth out there, things to know, that may challenge our currently held beliefs. That will help you battle the pride thing and help you be more open.

2. Don't be afraid to act on beliefs. This will test them. Again Peter; *"But we don't believe that we can catch any fish."* Pride is often rooted in the belief that our beliefs are THE truth. They mean something to us, worked for us in the past, so we just hold onto them without testing them. But pride could also keep you stuck in incomplete, or inaccurate beliefs. Don't be afraid...if you really trust your beliefs then put them to the test and see if what you have held as true is actually true. In Malachi, even God said that we are to test him. Testing gives us confidence to trust.

3. Allow others to speak into your life. This is huge, and a constant practical truth for us. Place people around you who you trust, and ask them about the things you may be struggling with. The wisdom and experiences of other people can help us with our tendency towards self-sufficiency. We always need a good circle of people around us who can speak into our lives. And from Peter's story we learn...listen to Jesus.

4. Celebrate being wrong. This is the weirdest truth. In our society there is this shame thing of admitting when you found out you were wrong. I have it too. I don't want to admit I'm wrong. But whether you admit it or not...you're still wrong. So, it's not about being right or wrong. It's about accepting what everyone else already knows...and that's we are wrong. When we can muster the courage, and admit we're wrong, then we celebrate it as growth and movement towards maturity.

5. Battling pride will happen all over again and again. Peter didn't stop being wrong or letting pride get in his way. If you know anything about the life of Peter, pride was a constant battle for him. Peter was bold, brash, and often jumped in...literally, before he had all the info. Pride is never completely purged from us. Being saved is not a prayer and a decision. That's just the first step to submitting and surrendering yourself to the work of sanctification, (\$25 dollar word that just means being conformed to the image of the God who is already in you). Show yourself grace, be patient, and know you will continually discover more and more things inside of you that you need to work through.

Of these above truths, where do you struggle the most?

What do you believe is at the root of that struggle for you?

Where is an area you may have found some strength in and could help someone else?

III Challenge.

So, our first lesson from those who followed Jesus. The struggle with thinking we are the only ones who can take care of things. Pride is something we all battle with, and is something Jesus wants to save us from. But we have to be honest enough to do a real inventory. And if we're really brave, ask people in our lives, to see in what areas in our lives we may have control issues. Now, not all control issues are related to pride. Some could be out of anxiety or fear. But there still will be an issue of thinking we have the answer or solution to whatever situation we find ourselves in.

So, if it is true... "pride goes before a fall", where in your life do you need to do some work, before a possible fall?