

PUT AWAY YOUR **SWORD**
and
GRAB YOUR NET



Part One

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:50-53 (NKJV)

50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?"

Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. 51 And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"

Introduction

Today's message invites us to picture the moment of Jesus and His disciples leaving the Garden of Gethsemane, after Jesus was in tremendous turmoil, agony and prayer over the decision He must make to sacrifice His life for all mankind. He and His disciples are leaving and soldiers are approaching ready to arrest Jesus. Look at this highlighted moment so intense, that our featured character Peter makes such a grave, rash and emotionally intense action, that it highlights the moment when everything changed for Peter. What he thought was going to be his bravest moment perhaps turned out to be the beginning of his least proud moments.

But how we get here, how did we get to this moment, where things started to go so wrong for Peter? How does a man

who walked so closely with Jesus end up responding so far from His heart? To understand the sword...we have to go back to the net.

Peter Meets The Fisher of Men

Luke 5:1-11 (NKJV)

Four Fishermen Called as Disciples

(Matt. 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20)

1 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, 2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. 3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." 6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." 11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

From this moment, everything changes for Peter. Jesus steps into his boat... and ultimately steps into his life. What began as a fishing lesson became a calling.

"From now on you will catch men.

Peter's Nets Were Still Breaking

From this moment onwards, Jesus transforms Peter's life, his outlook, his belief system. Jesus takes Peter and the other disciples deeper and deeper spiritually and just as this miracle stretched the strength and capacity of the nets Peter and his friends were carrying, Jesus stretched the faith and imagination of His disciples. They realized they were following more than a Teacher. He is indeed the Son of God.

- Not only could Jesus command the fish He could multiply them
- Not only could He command the winds and the waves He walked on them
- He commanded creation itself to heal, grow, die and live

Peter witnessed and participated in these miracles and he and the Disciples were now receiving a revelation of Jesus that was beyond what they could have ever imagined. They could not handle the balance of Who Jesus Is, who they were becoming, and how to allow both those things to expand at the same time. Their mental and emotional nets were beginning to break and Peter was rebuked, corrected and shown where his nets were still breaking.

There were clear tensions in Peter's personal net. While Peter was growing in revelation...he was still limited in understanding.

- Peter could accept a powerful Messiah. But he struggled with a **suffering Savior**.

- When Jesus began to speak about laying down His life—it didn't fit Peter's expectation.
- He could not understand how this Master of Life and Death would talk about "laying down His life."

Peter Rebuked

Matthew 16:21-23 (NKJV)

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Peter Corrected

Matthew 17:1-5 (NKJV)

1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. 4 Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

- Peter had to learn: Not every moment is for action. Some moments are for **listening**.

Peter Overpromising Loyalty

Matthew 26:33-35 (NKJV)

33 Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"

And so said all the disciples.

- Peter's overconfidence became the reason his faith took a major blow. The one thing he said he would not do, he did...three times.

Peter Caught Sleeping Instead of Praying

Matthew 26:40-41 (NKJV)

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- What you fail to handle in prayer...you will mishandle in pressure.

Peter Acting Rashly and Overemotionally

John 18:10-11 (NKJV)

10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

John tells on Peter that it was indeed him who drew the sword and not just "one of the disciples with Jesus" (as written by the other gospels).

Peter Called to Fish & Not to Fight

- Peter wasn't wrong for loving Jesus.
- He was wrong in how he expressed it.
- He reached for a **sword**...when he had been called to a **net**.

This one rash action by Peter still ripples into the heart of many believers today, sneakily hiding in the flesh and emotions of believers who would act rashly for the Kingdom:

- are we Christians who would defend the Kingdom of God with force?
- are we Christians who would take up a hostile posture towards those who don't believe what we believe?
- are we Christians who are quicker to cut off ears than bring Good News to ears that need it?
- are we Christians that are known more for our radical faith & exploits more than our radical LOVE that Christ said we should be identified by?
- have we forgotten that when it comes to our fellow mankind, we are "called to fish and not to fight?"
- Jesus never called Peter to fight people. He called him to **catch them**.

I believe we are in a critical moment in our history and lifetime, where once again, the Name of Jesus will become risky to say but necessary to breathe over people that don't know Him. Just as they arrested Jesus to crucify Him, history and prophecy has shown us that Christianity and the Gospel will come under resistance and in those tense moments, will we "draw our sword" or will we "remember our nets?"

Perhaps even closer to home, we may be dealing with conflicts and personal grievances against us. And as children of God, it is important for us to remember that our wrestle is not against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities, spiritual wickedness in high places. Although we are called to "put on the whole armor of God," we must also realize that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

Modern-Day Swords

We don't carry blades...but we still carry swords:

- Our words
- Our tone
- Our arguments
- Our need to be right

And if we're not careful—we will cut off ears...instead of reaching hearts.

When it comes to our fellow mankind—we put away our swords and go grab our nets.