

John 13:36-38 | Growing Beyond Presumptuous Sin

Communion Sunday.

Congregational Reading -words of Jesus.

Feeding of the Four Thousand

Matt. 15:32-37 'And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, "I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way."

The disciples said to Him, "Where would we get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy such a large crowd?"

And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven, and a few small fish."

And He directed the people to sit down on the ground; and He took the seven loaves and the fish; and giving thanks, He broke them and started giving them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven large baskets full.

And those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.

Pastoral Prayer.

Responsive Reading

Q7. What does the law of God require?

A7. Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done. (Matt. 22:37)

Q8. What is the law of God stated in the Ten Commandments?

A8. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below – you shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

Pastoral Prayer.

Sermon Text

John 13:33-38 'Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment, I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?"

Jesus answered, "Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later."

Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You."

Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times."

Intro.

Overconfidence. Arrogance.

The hidden sin of presumption. Q: What kind of a personal religion is it, that we would preclude that we will do the work needed to complete the work of God? What kind of presumption is it, that we would be capable of completing the work of God.

Now, I do not want to act as if we do not participate in the work of God, because we most certainly do. But, I want to emphasize that we can often be over confident in our contribution to then entire enterprise.

We can often be presumptive in our purposes. We can be presumptive in our plans. We can be presumptive in our prescriptions.

And my encouragement today, is that we have the intention of self-examination, to not be presumptive in our own rights but instead we would be confident in what God has revealed to us in Scripture and continue to trust in all of the facets of life that we do not know confidently.

We know that character of God and that we do not have to presume on.

We know the purposes of God and that we do not have to presume on.

We know the current plans in general and we know the future plans in general and we do not need to presume on any of those things. We can be confident about those things.

But on a daily basis. On a strategic level, we must recognize that **'we plan our steps but the Lord directs our path'** Prov.

The antidote to presumption is exactly what Jesus is teaching in this chapter; Humility.

Moving away from basics and fundamentals, in order to basically have no fundamentals. Leaving the frugal for the fashionable. **Forsaking** what is true for what is trendy.

It sounds like this; that's boring, that's old, I already know that! It's like the Rich Young Ruler, who in the presence of Christ is so presumptuous that he says he obeys all of the law even though Christ precedes that conversation with saying no one obeys all the law!

Presumption kills. Presumption destroys. Presumption is your enemy. And presumption is the default position of every human heart.

Peter is a great example to us. Peter is not condemned He is corrected. Something changes in Peter from John 13 to 1 Peter 1. From 30 AD to 60 AD.

Presumptuous sin and its solution.

Psalm 19:7-13 'The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening their eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever.

The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.

They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; then I will be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

What solves presumptuous sin? 1. Fundamentals. 2. What do fundamentals cause? Humility 3. What is the basis of all Christian love, service, and discipleship? Humility. 4. What is the access point to God's grace? Humility.

Humility.

You will learn to live a much more enjoyable life, if you learn to take upon you the yoke of humility.

It will be impossible to be a loving person if you are not a humble person.

Humility does not mean you are useless. Wouldn't be presumptuous to claim that Christ made you, choose you, pre-destined you to know Him, to save you, just for you to be useless? It is NOT humility, to think less of yourself. It IS humility to think ABOUT yourself less. 'to esteem others' above yourself.

Christ has not called you to a life of mediocrity. Lukewarmness. Latitudinarianism. Spiritual lethargy.

It IS NOT humble to not know the answer. That's not humility, that's arrogance. It is incumbent upon a disciple to learn. And train. And grow. And become.

To learn, it takes humility. To grow and train, it takes fortitude to recover from failures. But 'when a righteousness falls God will raise him up 7 times.'

Christians are not called to be average, they are commanded to be excellent. And the place in which we are to be excellent is in our **MORAL VIRTUE.**

Please turn to 1st Peter.

In a small town, it is easy to succumb to peer pressure. It is easy to succumb to group alliances. Shallow social ponds, where people of mediocrity gossip about people with other types of mediocrity

Dear God, don't give us a church of people who talk about other people. Give us a church that talks about the dogged pursuit of MORAL EXCELLENCE. When we have a church of people, who collect themselves for the purposes of growing in virtue, love will not be sought, it will overflow without containment.

In a small town, it becomes easy to fit into the patterns of mediocrity. But I believe it is an abomination for Christian to attempt to be average.

That not humility, that's laziness. Humility is NOT making the claim that you are unimportant. Humility is NOT making the claim that you have no value. That's NOT humility, that's false humility. That false modesty. It reeks of actual arrogance. False modesty virtue signals a prideful heart.

Humility is the only way to be a loving person. Humility is the undergirding of this entire chapter with regards to discipleship.

You're known as a disciple by your love. Your love is exercised in an example, v. 15, that Jesus gives, done in service. You're only accessible option for serving and showing that love, is through humility.

Humility might make a profit, but it does not seek a profit. Humility makes great strides but is not focused on the distance it covers. Humility is a virtue and it is a virtue that you must learn to attain if you are to have any grow as a Christian.

If every Christian would merely **examine themselves**, and see where God has opened a single door of humble service and in that dedicate themselves to pursuing excellence, this place, this town, it would never be the same.

This place would go down in history as icon.

Peter is our ultimate example of this. Peter is NOT a man that stands condemned, He is a man that **stands humbly correct by Christ**, and powerfully used by Him later.

If you grow in humility, you will make great profits, great strides, and bear great fruit for the Christ.

If you have a yoke of humility on your life, you will serve others in a loving capacity. It will be like the love of Christ.

If you have a spirit of humility growing in your heart and mind, joy will naturally flow out of your internal being. This will not be contrived, it will not be forced, it will exude out of you, by nature, because humility is the pre-cursor to love, and love the pre-cursor to joy.

Q: Did you know that as a Christian you actually have a perpetual debt over your life? No it is not your sin, that was paid. And you cannot pay that debt any how. That seems to be a presumption Peter might not understand here.

But there is an on-going debt in your life that you must pay. It is a bill that you must set on automatic deposit.

The payment must be taken out of your time, your attention. The payment must be made out of the accounts of humility.

the debt is that you are to **'owe no one nothing but to love them' Rom. 13:8**

Review of the Upper Room scene and the Passion Week.

Sunday: Raised Lazarus. Pre-cursor to His own resurrection in a week.

Monday: Jesus enters Jerusalem, what we celebrate on Palm Sunday

Tuesday/Wednesday: Jesus teaches in the temple. John 12

Thursday: The Last Supper, The Upper Room Discourses. John 13-17.

Love them until the end/ΕΙΣΤΕΛΟΣ. Until the end/Until completion/Until the goal, objective is accomplished. Q: When will He stop loving them? When this objective is accomplished? It's not until the salvation of their life is brought to complete fruition.

The cross is a part of that. **The resurrection** is a part of that. **The ascension** is a part of that. And each part of that is a major part of our own person experience in Christ.

We each die to self. We are resurrected in new life. After a life of discipleship, of regularly dying to self, and being sustained in a resurrected life, we are eventually brought to an ascended life in Heaven. Where Christ continues to love us until the end.

John 12:50 'His commandment is eternal life'

Ez. 36. A new life in Christ. A new heart. A new spirit. A new way of thinking. A new way of loving. A new motivation. A new direction. A new mechanism of control over your life. All centered around the heart.

I. 'Where are you going?'

Peter's naïve question. It's ok to ask uninformed questions, but **its not ok** to persist in being uninformed. As a disciple you must ask question and you must find the true answer to those questions.

II. 'Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.'

Two part. Jesus is going to the cross. Later Peter goes to his own cross. Jesus is going to heaven. Later Peter will go to heaven.

You will follow later. Peter learns some things. From John 13 to 1 Peter. Peter's growth as a disciple is remarkable. John 13 to 1 Peter is about 30 years.

Time and Truth are two things that are required to grow as a Christian. Time and Truth will not change. Time and Truth

Turn to 1 Pet. 1. then 2 Pet. 1:5-7

-1 Pet.1:5-12

THEREFORE – 1 Pet. 1:13-16

'conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth' v. 17

v. 22 'since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.'

v. 23 'you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring Word of God'

How were they born again?

1 Pet. 2:1-3

Ez. 36 'new heart and new spirit'

III. 'I will lay down my life for You.'

Spiritual overconfidence. Peter's presumption.

We like to persist in our over confidence. Works righteousness. We like to think because we do a certain thing it puts us in perpetual right standing.

Peter's shortcomings seen throughout the Gospels. Even after Christ's ascension.

Peter's inadequate faith

Matt 8:26 'Why are you afraid you of little faith.'

Matt. 14:31 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'

Peter's lack of discernment.

Matt. 15:15-16 'Peter said to Him, "Explain the parable to us." Jesus said, "Are you still lacking in understanding also?'

Peter's admonishment from Christ.

Matt. 16:23 'Jesus turned to Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me,. For you are not setting your mind on things of God, but on the things of man.'

Peter's unnecessary action at the Transfiguration.

Matt. 17:4-7 'Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'"

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold a voice out of the cloud said, 'This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased, listen to Him!' When the disciples heard this they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid."

Peter's inability to cure the lunatic.

Matt. 17:17,20 'You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me... 'Why could we not drive it out?' Jesus said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."

Jesus develops Peter in a personal experience.

Matt. 17:24-27 'When they came to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the two drachma tax?" Peter said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?" When Peter said, "From strangers," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are exempt. However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me." **Drachma tax was a two-days wage, required of every male age 20 older.**

Peter is a good example to us. Peter is a good example to us of both initial presumption and eventual maturity.

God grows us through time and truth. The interesting thing about Peter is the staying power. Just stay. Just stay in the truth and it will mature you over time.

Proverbs. Self-confidence. Pride. Presumption.

Fools act in pride and insist on presumption!

We all struggle with this from time to time, but we need reminders to avoid over-confidence. We need reminders to not be presumptuous about God or about our position in God

Pride.

Prov. 8:13 God 'hates the way of pride and arrogance and evil, perverted speech.'

Prov. 11:2 "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

Prov. 16:18 'Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud.'

Prov. 29:23 "One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor."

Dan. 4:37 'those who walk in pride he/God is able to humble.'

Presumption. Presumption is sin.

Psalm 19:13 'Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.' Q: Where do great transgressions come from? Simple presumptions!

Deut. 1:43 'you rebelled against the command of the LORD, and acted presumptuously'

The Administration of Justice.

Deut. 17:12-13 'The man who acts presumptuously by not listening to the priest who stands there to serve the LORD your God, nor to the judge, that man shall die; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel. Then all the people will hear and be afraid, and will not act presumptuously again.'

Spiritism Forbidden.

Deut. 18:22 'When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you shall not be afraid of him' (people who operate out of presumption operate in a selfish way, selfishness always operates out of foolishness and foolishness, cowardice.) Strength comes from God. If it is strength of any lasting value.

God is good despite our un-goodness.

Neh. 9:16-17 'But they, our fathers, acted arrogantly; they became stubborn and would not listen to Your commandments. They refused to listen, and did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You had performed among them; so they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt.

But You are a God of forgiveness, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.'

God is good but God will correct presumption and arrogance.

Look what Peter emphasizes with regard to presumptuous sin in his Epistle.

2 Pet. 2:9,10,11 'the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,

Matt. 26:31 'Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, "I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.'

IV. 'You will deny Me three times.'

The difference between denial and betrayal is the difference between immaturity and evil.

Peter was afraid. He thought that he wouldn't be. But in the hour of that testing he was. And that's ok. It's ok, because the real point of this event is not Peter, it's Christ's crucifixion.

Peter's ultimate testing will occur later.

Peter is merely a child in the faith. He's been a Christian for about 3 years. A Christian toddler.

When we are children we are fearful. When we are mere children we are not as capable as when we are older. But God does not intend for us to be children in all things.

God calls us to be infants in evil but mature in good.

1 Cor. 14:20 'stop thinking like children. In regard to evil, be infants. But in your thinking be like adults.'

There comes a time in Peter's life where He is no longer afraid. Peter loves Christ. Judas betrays. Peter denies.

Peter v. Judas.

Judas is evil.

Peter is immature. Peter is merely a babe in Christ right now.

Judas is filled with Satan.

Peter is yet to be filled with the Spirit.

Judas is destined for death.

Peter is destined for eternal life.

God has a plan for Peter. Christ intends to use Peter in a specific way.

I guess you could say at this moment, Peter fails to reach the decisive point. He fails. He falls short.

Which one of us hasn't? Who among us could cast the first stone?

Peter is a great example of a Christian figure. We all on occasion are **overly zealous**.

Presumptuously conclusive about a matter we shouldn't be so confident about. We are all on **occasion trusting** our own abilities.

It's ok. But just know, God will not allow that to continue. He will blow the winds and things will change.

God will humble you and instruct you by the circumstances of your life. He will be true to grow you just like He does Peter.

a. 'Truly, truly' / αμην, αμην –

Where else has Jesus made demonstrative claims like this?

John 21:18 **'Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.'** Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God.'

Peter will eventually die for Christ.

V. Don't put your confidence in yourself. Put your confidence in Christ.

That means you won't always know how circumstances will unfold because you are not in control. BUT, because you know who is in control you will know the general theme of how everything will go, because you know who is in control of everything.

This should bring you peace. This should bring you stability. That's what Jesus says in the very next passage.

'Let not your heart be troubled' – Why? Because you know the plan, you know the program, and you don't have to be in control of it.

We can be pierced with so many griefs when we think results depend on us. If results do depend on us, then they must not depend on Christ, and if they do not depend on Christ but do depend on us, the results have a limited lifespan, a limited growth. A limited grace.

Let God be in control and you focus on being obedient to God.

Let God be supreme and you be submitted. Search out God's Sovereignty in circumstances and by this let God

Communion

1 Cor. 11

Weekly Email

John 13:36-38 | Growing Beyond Presumptuous Sin "At the end of John 13, Peter makes a statement to Jesus that he will die for Christ. Christ tells Peter you will not die for me, but instead you will deny me, three times. This type of correction has become normal in the example of Peter up to this point. But something changes with Peter from John 13 to 1 Peter. Something changes from AD 30 to AD 60. Peter grows in humility. He is corrected, not condemned, for his presumptions, and God uses the truth of His word to grow him in humble dependence on Christ."

1. What have we see about Peter's character that we can relate to ourselves?
2. What does the Psalm men about hidden sins, presumptuous sins in Psalm 19?
3. What is the solution to presumption and arrogance?

4. What does Peter learn from 30 years of ministry that he highlights in the first two chapters of 1 Peter?
5. Where can we learn to be more basic, more fundamental, live a simpler life? A life of humility and dependence on the love of Christ while humbly loving one another. s