

here to there

Week 5: February 18-23



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## DAY 25 - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Welcome back to the journey through Peter's Life. What has the Lord been doing in and through you over this past week? Journal your thoughts below:

### PRAY

As we dive back in, remember that the goal is to try to immerse ourselves into the Biblical text in a manner that allows us to see it in a new and fresh way. Be intentional to slow down, remove distractions, and open yourself up to the Holy Spirit's guidance as you dive into the Word.

When you are ready, agree with this prayer:

*Lord, You are worthy of my best attention and efforts. I give You this time to hear and learn from You. Guide me in this Here to There journey You are taking me on. Thank You for the gift of Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### PENTECOST

Last Spring, we did a teaching series at NMC called *Unleashed*. The focus was on the events surrounding the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the early Church, and the early Church being unleashed into the world to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Scriptures we will dive into this week are the same as what we studied. As we dive in again this year, we narrow our focus to Peter and the role he played, which is an extremely significant role. As we dive into today's story, do your best to put yourself back into the position and mindset of Peter. Remember all the highs and lows in his journey with Jesus.

### READ AND CONTEMPLATE [ACTS 2:1-40](#)

This is the passage that Pastor Dave preached from yesterday as well. If you were not able to be here, or you would like to take the message in one more time, check out: [Peter and the Day of Pentecost](#).

As you picture yourself on the scene in the moments that unfold in verses 1-13, what sticks out to you and why?

As you picture yourself as Peter addressing the crowd in verses 14-38, explain what is going on with your senses (see, feel, hear, taste, touch):

### **MAKE IT PERSONAL**

This amazing event marks the unleashing of the Spirit on the Church.

Where do you sense He is seeking to unleash you?

What, if anything, is present in your life that could be holding you back from the full unleashing of the Holy Spirit in your life?

### **THE BOTTOM LINE**

At first glance, your *Here to There* journey may not look like it, but if Jesus is truly in our *Here to There* journey, His ultimate goal is to release us into this world for maximum impact for His sake. If you don't sense or see a clear direction in that way at this moment, place your trust in Him to reveal it in His timing.

## DAY 26 - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

### PRAY

Take some time to prepare yourself in prayer today. By this time, you know the rhythm, so in your own words give this time over to Him and ask for His direction:

### THE CRIPPLED BEGGAR

The church is on the move. As Acts 2 concludes, we see a massive revival as the result of Peter's first evangelistic message at Pentecost. The community of believers was organizing in a manner that is centered on Jesus and marked by the Holy Spirit's power. All indications point to Peter leading the charge in many ways. Yet, in today's story, we see how he lives out his commitment to Jesus inside the everyday, the coming and going of his schedule.

### READ AND CONTEMPLATE [ACTS 3](#)

Picture yourself as Peter walking along with John, encountering different people and opportunities.

What especially strikes you in Peter's actions and reactions in this story?

Peter says a lot of things in this story. What is one line or statement he makes that especially resonates with you and why?

## **MAKE IT PERSONAL**

We often feel as though we cannot offer a solution to those in need. Peter and John were able to see that what this crippled beggar thought he needed (money), was not what he really needed (healing, and ultimately the hope and peace of Jesus). This is what Peter means when he tells the beggar, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give to you."

As you think through the situations and people you are burdened for, how might the heartbeat behind Peter's statement apply?

## **THE BOTTOM LINE**

Verse 4 in this story is another one of Peter's "eye moments" (which we have referenced throughout this teaching series). It says, "Peter looked straight at [the beggar]," and Peter told the beggar, "Look at us." His eyes did not pass by an opportunity the Lord had laid before him. As you walk through this day, and the days to follow, keep your eyes open for opportunities. In fact, close your time today in prayer asking God to guide your eyes toward the things He wants you to see.

## DAY 27 - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

### PRAY

Today, let this prayer from St. Patrick serve as a way to focus your mind and heart on your time with Jesus.

*Christ with me,*

*Christ before me,*

*Christ behind me,*

*Christ in me,*

*Christ beneath me,*

*Christ above me,*

*Christ on my right,*

*Christ on my left,*

*Christ when I lie down,*

*Christ when I sit down,*

*Christ when I arise,*

*Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,*

*Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,*

*Christ in every eye that sees me,*

*Christ in every ear that hears me.*

### BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

Because of the events we read about in Acts 3 yesterday, Peter and John are now facing some heat in today's story.

### READ AND CONTEMPLATE [ACTS 4:1-31](#)

Picture yourself as Peter and John. Remember, the chief priests are the same people who sought out and signed off on the death of Jesus.

What strikes you from the interaction between Peter, John, and these religious leaders?

Peter says a lot of things in this story. What is one line or statement that especially resonates with you and why?

What strikes you from Peter and John's return trip and report to the believers (in verses 23-31)?

### **MAKE IT PERSONAL**

Verse 13 is deeply powerful and profound:

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John, and realized they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."

What are qualities or aspects of your life that either make you feel disqualified or you believe others would say disqualify you from truly making an impact in this world?

Fill your name in the blank:

They were astonished and took note that \_\_\_\_\_ had been with Jesus.

Do you believe people could say this is true of you? Why or why not?

### **THE BOTTOM LINE**

There are many reasons we could disqualify ourselves from Kingdom work: poor skills, lack of knowledge, past mistakes, doubts, and fears. In reality, these are all qualities John and Peter could claim as well. Yet, they had "been with Jesus," and that changed everything! As you have spent time with Jesus today, and as you seek to continually follow Him in this *Here to There* journey, allow Him to be your source of strength and authority as you face this life!

## DAY 28 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Today is a “Digging Deeper” Day. One time each week, we will take a break from our study on Peter’s life to tune in to a conversation that takes us back and drills a little deeper into the previous Sunday’s message.

Find Digging Deeper:

- On the NMC App under “Sermon Resources”
- On iTunes by searching and subscribing to “NMC Digging Deeper”
- Online at [www.nmc.church/DiggingDeeper](http://www.nmc.church/DiggingDeeper)

## DAY 29 - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

### PRAY

Take 60 seconds to be still before God. Remove distractions. Breathe deeply. Prepare your heart, eyes, and ears and to hear from him.

Then, agree with this prayer:

*Lord, speak truth to me. Help me see where You are leading me from Here to There. Allow my heart to resonate with Yours. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

### ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

Today’s story is a tough one. It involves sin and confrontation. As you take up the position of Peter, allow yourself to feel the weight of what is taking place in comparison to the major move of God that is being witnessed.

### READ AND CONTEMPLATE [ACTS 5:1-10](#)

What strikes you about Peter’s actions in this story?

If you were Peter, how do you think you would have responded?

## **MAKE IT PERSONAL**

There seem to be two driving factors inside Peter's reactions and what happens in this passage. First, sin is a serious issue, and there can be serious consequences to disobeying God. Second, when God is on the move, it is important to not let anything hinder that move.

Ask the Lord, if there is any unconfessed or hidden sin in your life right now that you need to deal with.

Is there anything causing distraction from the *Here to There* calling He has for you right now? If so, what needs to be done about it?

## **THE BOTTOM LINE**

May the truth of Hebrews 12:1-2 be our prayer.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

As we seek to be a people who embrace the grace of Jesus while following Him wherever He is calling us, let us be a people who keep our eyes fixed on Him while we lift high the banner of holiness and obedience as we move from *Here to There*.

## DAY 30 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

### PRAY

Today, take a moment to praise God for who He is. If you have picked up one of the posters that walks through Scriptures pointing to the character of God, grab it and work through a few. If you don't have one, be sure to pick one up in the Grand Hall.

After taking time to praise Him, agree with this prayer.

*Lord, You are worthy of my praise. You are also worthy of my focus and attention. I give You this time. Speak to me from Peter's life. Amen.*

### SIMON PETER MEETS SIMON THE SORCERER

Today's story marks a step in Peter's journey that Jesus told him and the other disciples they would make. As He said in Acts 1:8, they are moving on to Jerusalem to be "His witnesses" to Samaria. This encounter is very interesting.

### READ AND CONTEMPLATE [ACTS 8:9-25](#)

As always, put yourself in Peter's sandals. Seek to see, feel, hear, smell, and even taste what you think he would.

What strikes you about Peter's actions in this story?

What strikes you about the difference between Simon the Sorcerer and Simon Peter?

## **MAKE IT PERSONAL**

This story reminds us that we can seek power in three wrong ways. First, we can be tempted to seek power from the wrong sources. Second, we can seek it in the wrong manner. Third, we can seek it for the wrong reasons.

As you consider these wrong approaches, are there any that apply to you or that you are fringing toward?

Take time to ask Jesus to help you in any of the areas you have identified.

## **THE BOTTOM LINE**

Remember, our *Here to There* is all about following Jesus, AND the end goal is Jesus. As we head into our final Sunday of this teaching series, let us be a church who will make it ALL ABOUT JESUS!

**Nappanee Missionary Church**

PO Box 110; 70417 SR 19 North

Nappanee, IN 46550

Tel: (574) 773-7773

Fax: (574) 773-2727

Email: [nmcnews@nmc.church](mailto:nmcnews@nmc.church)

**[WWW.NMC.CHURCH](http://WWW.NMC.CHURCH)**

Written by Pastor Derry Prekert  
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