

# **The Taking Breaking and Making of the Man**

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In the lives of some of the greatest men of God in the Bible we see a pattern that takes place. God calls a man out of the world to serve him, then breaks him so that he can make him into a profitable servant.

Even in our church today we see this pattern taking place. A person begins serving God in one way or another. Maybe they work in the kitchen or teach a Sunday School class. Maybe they sing in the choir or play an instrument. But they are serving God and there is a certain amount of pride that they have in their own abilities.

Then something happens to their service. They become offended by someone who is critical or they are replaced by someone else. It is when that individual's talents and abilities are no longer of the utmost importance to the functioning of that ministry, that you see where their heart really is. They may leave the church or begin to pull themselves away from serving.

God has allowed them to be tested. At times they may fall away from the church, begin to drift in their spiritual life. They still trust in Christ for their salvation but something has happened to them. The emptiness begins

once again to take over their lives and they go back to the things that they once knew and were comfortable with.

Others may pull back for a time hurt but realizing that God has other plans for their life. They stay in the word, they stay in church and allow God to put them in the place of service that he wants.

It is this Taking, Breaking and Making of the man that we are going to look at today in the life of the Apostle Peter.

## Taking

Jesus found Peter and his brother Andrew casting their nets fishing.

Mt 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

Peter was called to follow Jesus as a fisherman.

My Grandfather and Great Grandfather.

## Breaking

### Luke 22

The night of the Last Supper, Jesus just finished telling the disciples that one would betray him. They were all asking among themselves who it would be and then they begin arguing about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom. Jesus gives them a lesson about the greatest being the least and the least being the greatest and then

Jesus turns to Peter

*Lu 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:*

*32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

*33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.*

*34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.*

Here Jesus warns Peter that he is about to be tested by Satan. He calls his name twice as though Peter may not be listening.

He then tells him that he has prayed for him so that his faith doesn't fail. And when he is converted he is to Strengthen the brethren.

In verse 33 we get an idea of Peter's mindset. Peter says "Lord, I am ready to go with thee both into PRISON, and to DEATH."

Peter is more ready to fight a physical rather than a spiritual battle. He is ready to be taken to Prison and or to fight to the death if necessary.

Don't doubt for a minute that Peter was telling the truth as he knew it. He had no desire to fail Jesus and he had every desire to do whatever he had to. For Peter to deny Jesus meant to leave him, to not stand with him. But all that strength and that desire to fight physically wouldn't be of any use when it came to God's plan being enacted.

In Matthew 16:21 Jesus warned them of what would happen in Jerusalem but Peter wouldn't hear of it.

*Mt 16:21 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.*

*22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.*

*23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

If you look strictly at the physical when a spiritual test comes you are doomed to fail it.

In the physical world the trials come at us but it is only in the spiritual that we conquer them.

Peter wanted to protect Jesus from harm but God's plan was different.

Jesus went on

*Lu 22:35 And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.*

*36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.*

*37 For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.*

*38 And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough.*

Here, I think, in Peter's mind, the stage is set. There will be a battle and he won't lose his Lord.

We know how they went into the Garden of Gethsemane and how the disciples fell asleep.

Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss and then a band of men and officers from the chief priests show up with lanterns torches and weapons.

*Luke 22:49 When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?*

*50 And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.*

*John 18:10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.*

*11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*

*Lu 22:51 And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.*

Imagine the emotion that was built up in Peter when he swung that sword. All of the passion inside of Peter that was being released with full force.

This wasn't a love tap. This wasn't a rapier sword popping the man's ear off but a full force blow to the head that was about to be followed up.

In one act of mercy, Jesus deflated and dispelled all that emotion all of that tension and all of the rage that Peter must have felt against those who would kill his Lord and Savior.

In that moment seeing Jesus heal the servant's ear and hearing Jesus say "Put up your sword into the sheath; Shall I not drink of the cup which my Father has given me? "

Jesus turned a display of strength to one of weakness.

He turned the emotion of rage to one of embarrassment.

He turned a clear decision into confusion.

In that moment, what Peter thought was his biggest failure, his failure to defend Jesus and to keep him from being taken, was the beginning of the fulfillment of the greatest prophecy of all time. This was very time that Isaiah spoke of when he said in

Is. 53:5 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.  
6. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have

turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Yet, in that moment all Peter can see is that the things that he relied on to be of service to Jesus, his Strength, his Courage, and his Leadership, were of no use to the Son of God in His darkest hour.

Watch what happened to Peter.

Verse 54 says

Lu 22:54 Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And **Peter followed afar off.**

Sometimes it isn't a moment in time like the one Peter just went through. Often times it is a progression.

We get saved and have a strong desire for the word of God. We also have a strong desire to serve him in whatever capacity we can. We may think that by using this talent or the other we can best serve God.

But +

Then something happens. It becomes less and less about God's will and more and more about what we want. There is still a love of the Lord but there is something else there also. The sin of pride ever so slowly begins to rear its ugly head. It begins to appear in our service. Not that we can see. Not at first.



DeDee's dad once told her cousin if you smell yourself, then everyone else has been able to smell you for two days.

That pride begins to affect our hearing. Like Peter, we develop a selective hearing. We think that God is in the lead when in truth we quit asking him long ago. Like Peter we hear the words that we want to hear. Peter heard the words Strengthen, and Sword as battle preparation. Somewhere along the line We still pray from habit but we may not be really asking God what he wants.

Our pride tells us that there is no one else that can do the job the way it needs to be done and then we can't understand why we can't seem to get any help doing it. We may not even realize the ways in which we are hurting the church body through bitterness and crushing the spirits of the other believers or through our own self righteousness or judgmental attitude.

I've seen it happen where God will begin to move within the church body and growth will begin to happen. Christians younger in the faith will begin to step up and the church body, following God's leading will move that person in all their pride and glory from their position.

Having lost their position, they pull back from the church and begin to follow afar off. Like Peter they are confused. They were serving God through their ability and talent that he

gave them. They were using that talent for him and now they don't understand what God wants for them.

Here is Peter who was strong and courageous. He had faith enough in Jesus that when he saw him walking on the water asked the Lord to call him out to him and he stepped out of the boat and until the wind and waves began to scare him, was walking on the water.

He had walked with Jesus for the last 3 years but somehow he failed to see that God's plan wasn't for him to fight a physical battle. Now he followed afar off. Keeping a safe distance.

Next we see Peter in Verse 55

*Lu 22:55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.*

*Joh 18:18 And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.*

Here we find Peter who has pulled back to follow Jesus from Afar and he is now warming his hands by same fire as those who took Jesus into custody.

When anyone is offended by something or someone within the church body, we see this progression take place.

I feel like my talents aren't being utilized, I should be doing this. I don't like the way they do that. They shouldn't have said that. Apply whatever scenario you want. The fact is that we see this progression or regression if you will.

**They separate from church fellowship.**

They quit attending church.

**They follow afar off.** They still love Jesus but they aren't quite in the word like they once were.

And like Peter: **They begin to warm themselves by the worlds fire.**

The world's fire is not a big event at the fair but when

1Jo 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Jas 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

If your still having trouble understanding what the World's Fire is think of the burn barrel at a party. It's the place where you seek out your own lusts and fall into temptations.

They begin to be comforted by all the things that the world has to offer and the fellowship that they once had with God and His people becomes a memory.

**andThey no longer want to be associated with God's people.**

*Lu 22:56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.*

*57 And he denied him, saying, **Woman, I know him not.***

*58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, **Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.***

59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean.

60 And Peter said, Man, **I know not what thou sayest.** And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Sometimes we don't even realize our failings until we see ourselves the way Jesus sees us.

Jesus was crucified the next day, he was buried and then after three days he arose. Peter and John witnessed the empty tomb after Mary told them about it.

Then in Chapter 21 We see Peter.

How the words of Jesus must have lain heavy on his heart as he remembered that night in the courtyard. Not only the prophesy of Jesus that Peter would deny him. But the words that Jesus spoke another time when he said

*Mt 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

*Joh 21:2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.*

*3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.*

Peter in his discouragement at having failed the Lord (in his mind) and not knowing what

else to do, goes back to doing what he knows. He goes fishing.

So too, the man or woman who has been broken, their walk with Christ and fellowship with the believers a memory, they soon go back to the things they once knew.

### The Making of the Man

It is here in John 21 that Jesus shows himself to the disciples and to Peter. He tells them to cast on the right side of the ship and after spending all night not catching a single fish, they now have a net that they can't pull in.

When Peter realizes that it is Jesus on the shore he can't wait for the boat to reach shore. He jumps in the water and swims to the shore. There Jesus has prepared a meal for him.

(Aren't you glad to know that there is a meal waiting for you when you spend time with the Word and Jesus says "Come and Dine")

Joh 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, *Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?* He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, *Feed my lambs.*

16 He saith to him again the second time, *Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?* He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, *Feed my sheep.*

17 He saith unto him the third time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, **Lovest thou me?** And he said unto him, **Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.** Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

With each question Jesus walked Peter back through his denials as if giving him the opportunity to undo each one.

From this passage forward whenever we hear Peter talking, he is talking about Jesus and his concern is for his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Peter went on to serve Jesus. 3000 souls were added to the Church on the day of Pentecost through Peter preaching on Jesus.

Many were healed. People were put on the sidewalks in the hopes of the Apostles shadow passing over them and healing them. Peter was used by God to lead the first Gentiles to Christ.

And for that person who has been discouraged. It doesn't matter if it was a Preacher, a group of people, or some other circumstance that brought you to a place where you asked yourself "What now?"

Your fellowship with God's people and His word is a memory or it may be a mystery to you.

If it's a memory and your asking how do I get back, start at 1 John 1:9 where it says If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If it's a mystery to you and you want to know more then come forward and talk to the Pastor or just keep coming back.