



A just weight
and balance



are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Peter Confesses
Jesus as the Christ

- Matthew 16:13

When Jesus came into the coasts
of Caesarea Philippi,

- he asked his disciples, saying,

Whom do men say
that I the Son of man am?

- Although the disciples had grasped the fact that **Jesus was God's Messiah,**
 - They still had **not grasped what** that great fact meant.
- To them it meant something **totally different from** what it meant to Jesus.

- They were still thinking in terms of a conquering Messiah,

- A warrior king, who would sweep the Romans from Palestine and lead Israel to power.

- That is why Jesus commanded them to silence.

(Mark 8:30)

- There were many reasons for this command as the people were not ready to receive Him as the Messiah but instead would made Him their king.
(John 6:15)

- Before they could preach that Jesus was the Messiah, they had to learn what that meant.

- Peter's reaction shows just how far the disciples were from realizing just what Jesus meant when he claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God.

- So Jesus began to seek to open their eyes to the fact that for him there was no way but the way of the Cross.

- No sooner had Jesus said that than **Peter suddenly reacted.**
- Peter had been brought up on the idea of a Messiah of **power** and **glory** and **conquest.**
- To him the idea of **a suffering Messiah,** was beyond belief.

- And then came the great rebuke which startles us.
- "Get behind me,
Satan!"

- Why should Jesus react like that?
- It may have been His remembrance of the temptations in the wilderness.
 - There He had been tempted to take the easy way out.

- These temptations were never far from the mind of Jesus.
 - Luke gives us a clearer picture into the heart of the Master.
- **"And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time"**
(Luke 4:13).

- Again and again
the tempter must have
launched this attack.
 - No one
wants a cross;
 - No one wants
to die in agony.

- Here the Devil strikes again.
 - Offering an easy way out.
 - But this time it comes from a beloved friend.

- The sharpness of Jesus' answer was due to the fact that Peter was playing into Satan's hand and he was totally unaware of it.

- That is why
Peter was Satan.
- Satan literally means the
Adversary.
 - That is why
Peter's ideas
were not God's
but man's.

- **Satan is any force**
which seeks to
deflect us from the way of God;
- To make us turn back
from the hard way;
 - Any power
which seeks to make
human desires
take the place of the divine.

- What made the temptation most acute was the fact that it came from one who loved him.
 - Peter could not bear to think of his dear friend dying that awful death.

- **The hardest temptations of all**
is the one
which comes
from those
who love us.

- What really wounded Jesus at that moment and what made him speak as he did, was that the tempter spoke to him that day through the genuine love of a dear friend.

- What did Jesus mean when He said **"Get behind me, Satan!"**
- Jesus was saying:
"Peter, your place is behind me, not in front of me."

- **Peter is not banished**
from Christ's presence;
 - Rather he is admonished
to take
his proper place.

- He must walk
in the
footsteps of Jesus.
- We are reminded of
the old gospel song,
- **Where He Leads Me,
I will follow.**”

- In the temptations
in the wilderness

Satan is banished

from the presence of Christ;

- Peter, however,

is recalled to be

a follower

of Christ.

- The one thing that Satan could never become is a follower of Christ;
- In his diabolical pride he could never submit to that; that is why he is Satan.

- On the other hand,
Peter might be mistaken
and might fail and might sin,
- But for him
there was always
the challenge
and the chance
to become a follower again.

- So long as a man is prepared to try to follow, even after he has fallen, there is still for him the hope of glory here and hereafter.

- Matthew 16:24

**Then said Jesus
unto his disciples,
If any man will
come after me,**

- **let him deny himself,**
- **take up his cross,
and follow me.**

- Jesus drives this point home **over** and **over**.
- Again and again he confronted His disciples **with the challenge of the Christian life.**

- **Jesus is asking us:**
 - To **dethrone self** and to enthrone God.
 - The life of **constant self-denial** is the life Jesus demands.

- When we were young we used to play a game called "Follow my Leader."
- Everything the leader did, however difficult, however ridiculous, we had to copy.
 - The Christian walks in the footsteps of Christ, wherever he may lead.

- There is all the difference in the world between existing and living.
 - To exist is simply to have the lungs breathing and the heart beating.

- To live is to be alive where there is peace in the soul,
joy in the heart.
- Jesus here gives us the recipe for real life.

- Jesus is informing us that the man who plays it safe loses.
- Matthew was writing somewhere between A.D. 80 and 90.
- He was writing during some of the bitterest days of persecution.

- He was saying:
"The time may well come
when you can save your life
by abandoning your faith;
- But if you do,
you will not
save your life,
you will loose life."

- The man who is faithful
may die
but he dies to live;
- The man who
abandons
his faith for safety
may live,
but he lives to die.

- If we live life in the constant search for safety, security, ease and comfort,
- And every decision is taken from a worldly point of view,
- We are losing all that makes life worth while.

- Life becomes an **earthbound thing** only to die and to return to the dust **with no hope of eternal glory.**
- The man who plays it safe **ceases to be a man,** for man is made in the image of God.

- Jesus is informing us that
The man who risks all
may appear as if
he has lost it all,

- But he
finds life
in Christ.

- It has always been the adventurous souls, bidding farewell to security and safety, who wrote their names on history.

- Unless there had been those prepared to take risks, many a medical cure would not exist.
- Unless there were mothers prepared to take risks, no child would ever be born.
 - It is the man who is prepared to bet his life that Jesus is right who in the end finds life.

- Then Jesus speaks with warning:
 - Suppose a man plays for safety;
suppose he gains the whole world;
 - And then finds that that life is not worth living,
what can he give to get life back again?"
 - And the answer is grim, as he cannot get life back again.

- In every decision of life there are some things that are irreversible.

- It is perfectly possible for a man to gain all the things he set his heart upon,
 - And then to awaken one morning to find that he has missed the most important things of all.

- The world stands for material things as opposed to God;
 - Of this let us note the implications of what Jesus said:

- No one can take them with him at the end;
he can take only himself;
- And if he has sacrificed the Christ in order to get them,
his regret will be bitter.

- Material things
will never mend
a broken heart

or

cheer a lonely soul.

- Finally

Jesus asks:

"What will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

- Once a man has traded his soul for worldly gain, there is no price that he can pay to get it back again.
- He has done something to himself which cannot ever be undone.

- As we are the created possession of God, we are His by right.
- And there is nothing we can give to Christ in exchange for that.

- One may give his money to Christ and withhold his life.
- One may give lip-service to Christ and withhold his life.
- In the end it is a bad bargain.

- The only possible gift Jesus will accept is ourselves;
 - There is no substitute for it.
 - Nothing less will do.

Matthew 16:27

**For the Son of man
shall come in
the glory of his Father
with his angels;
and then he shall
reward every man
according to his works.**

- Jesus gives a warning of the coming judgment.
- Life is going somewhere, and that somewhere is judgment.
 - There is no escape from this fact.

- It is Jesus who sets the standard of judgment.
- It is also Jesus who sets the example.

John 6:38

For I came down
from heaven,

not to do

mine own will,

but the will of him
that sent me.

- Jesus warned his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and that there he must suffer and die.

- **After the Cross**
came the Resurrection.
- The Cross was **not** to be the end;
- It was the beginning of the unleashing of that power which was to **surge throughout the whole world.**

- Remember the words of Jesus,
**I will build
my church;
and the gates
of hell
shall not
prevail against it.**
(Matthew 16:18)

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



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