

From Good, To Bad, To Better

Peter's Rookie Season

THE DRAFT:

Matthew 4:18-20, Luke 5:1-11

DROPPING THE BALL:

FUMBLE #1

Matthew 14:22-33

Great faith—wrong focus

FUMBLE #2

Matthew 16:13-28

Great devotion—wrong direction

FUMBLE #3

Matthew 26:31-75

Great desire—wrong actions

FUMBLE #4

John 21:1-5

Great salvation—wrong purpose

THE COMEBACK:

John 21:6-22

- ▶ Faith is more than just knowing the facts.
- ▶ The closer we focus on the world, the less we see Jesus.
- ▶ The game plan is still the same: Leave & Follow.

Food for Thought

For the week of July 26, 2009

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. In the sermon this weekend, Chris talked about where we focus our attention. The Bible teaches us that wherever we place our attention is where our treasures are. What do the following passages tell us about what perspective we should have?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. [17] For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. [18] So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. [NIV]

Matthew 13:44-46

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

[45] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. [46] When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. [NIV]

Even though we know we should leave everything and follow Jesus, why do you find it so hard to focus on eternal things?

2. We are not only called to keep our focus on certain things, we are also warned to keep our attention off certain other things. What do the following passages teach us about storing up treasures on earth and focusing too much on this world?

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

[14] Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" [15] Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

[16] And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. [17] He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

[18] "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. [19] And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' "

[20] "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

[21] "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."
[NIV]

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. [NIV]

Many of us get too caught up in this world. What areas of your life tend to grab your focus away from eternal things?

3. What specific qualities does this passage encourage us to possess in order to overcome our tendency to see only the things of this world?

2 Peter 1:3-9

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. [4] Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

[5] For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; [6] and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; [7] and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. [8] For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. [NIV]

Which of these things could you begin working on this week?