

PETER'S INCONSISTENCY

Matthew 16:13-23

All of us are susceptible to inconsistencies that affect our walk with Christ

I. PETER'S CONFESSION WAS RIGHT (13-16)

- He understood the person of Christ

A. MAN'S ASSESSMENT (13-14)

1. Jesus is a man
2. Jesus is a messenger

B. PETER'S ANNOUNCEMENT (15-16)

1. Jesus is the anointed One: The Christ
 - The Messiah > Appointed by God for special service
2. Jesus is the divine One: The Son of the living God
 - a. Deity
 - 1) Divine not human - Is. 9:6, Jer. 23:5-6, Micah 5:2
 - 2) Eternal not temporal
 - b. Activity: The living and life-giving One

II. PETER'S COMMENDATION WAS REWARDING (17-20)

- He knew the program of Christ

A. HIS SPECIAL RECOGNITION (17a)

1. "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona"
2. Here is a happy human!

B. HIS SPECIAL REVELATION (17b-18)

1. About Christ (17b)
2. About Church (18)
 - a. Founded on correct Christology > This rock
 - b. Constructed by Christ
 - c. Protected from Hades: The gates of Hades will not overpower it > Neither death nor demons

C. HIS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES (19-20)

1. Authority: The keys of the kingdom
2. Announcing: Binding and loosing
3. Avoiding: Revealing to rejectors that He is the Christ (v. 20)

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III. PETER'S CONFRONTATION WAS WRONG (21-23)

- He refused the plan of Christ

A. CHRIST'S REPORT (21)

1. Instruction: This is what the disciples needed to know
2. Imperatives: I must ... go, suffer, be killed, rise again
3. Importance: Because of ...
 - a. Human sin and Jesus as the ransom - Matt. 20:28
 - b. Forgiveness of sin only by shedding of blood - Heb. 9:27
 - c. God's divine decree - Eph. 1:4-5
 - d. The fulfillment of prophecy like Psalm 16:22 and Isaiah 53

B. PETER'S REBUKE (22)

1. Correcting Jesus: God forbid it Lord!
2. Contradicting Jesus: This shall never happen to you!
3. Condemning Himself: By rejecting the redemption he needs

C. CHRIST'S RESPONSE (23)

1. Be Gone! > Peter had become Satan's spokesman
2. Be Aware! > Peter's mission and mindset were wrong

IV. PETER'S CONTRADICTION PROMOTES REFLECTION

A. BE MINDFUL

1. What are you saying about Christ? (15)
2. We can be right (16) and wrong (22) at the same time
3. Even those who have things revealed to them by God (17) can come under the influence of Satan (22-23)
4. Privilege doesn't prevent pitfalls (18, 22)

B. BE HUMBLE

1. We need to understand that our understanding is limited (21-23)
2. We must not speak so confidently about what we comprehend so poorly (22)

C. BE CAREFUL

1. Satan can sometimes be masked as a friend (22-23)
2. Questions about Christ are fine, but not condemnation (22)

CONCLUSION:

In the end, though sometimes inconsistent, Peter got it right and understood Christ's death on the cross. - Read I Peter 2:24

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