

Morning Sermon 8/21/2022 –

“Power to Know and Name, Power to Change and Build” John 1:42

⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “**You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas**” (which is translated, A Stone). John 1:42 (NKJV)

I. *Note what Andrew did –*

1. *First, he told his brother about Jesus –*

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). John 1:40–41 (NKJV)

2. *Second, he brought his brother to Jesus –*

⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. John 1:42 A (NKJV)

These two things are the sum of Evangelism and the duty of us all. Do any of us have family members who do not know Christ? Brothers? Sisters? Fathers? Mothers? Children? Tell them! Bring them!

II. *Jesus’ look at Simon ...*

Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “**You are Simon the son of Jonah...**” John 1:42 B (NKJV)

1. *Jesus’ look was one of perfect and complete knowledge –*

A. *The knowledge of God –*

¹ O LORD, You have searched me and known me. ² You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. ³ You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. ⁵ You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. ⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.* Psalm 139:1–6 (NKJV)

Beheld him.—Ἐμβλέψας. The penetrating look of the Lord, introducing one of those mental miracles of immediate discernment of characters which here follow in rapid succession, and of which the knowledge of Nathanael is especially signalized. Jesus is the knower of hearts, ch. 2:25. It is characteristic that John first brings out this power of the Lord: in keeping with his Gospel of the ideal personality. J. P. Lange

²⁴ But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, ²⁵ and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. John 2:24–25 (NKJV)

B. *We talk of first impressions and even of “love at first sight” and even in our mere human to human relations we sometimes make important connections and build solid relationships upon a good first meeting. If this sometimes happens with us, the Son of God is able beyond our weaknesses to bless us ...*

C. *The Greek word Ἐμβλέψας is a participle form of the Greek verb blepo “I see” and here implies a look of knowledge.*

Jesus knew Simon - Peter, even from the very start, better than Simon knew himself ...

The word / name Simon meant wishy-washy, unstable, and whatever Peter may have thought about himself, Jesus knew the truth --- Peter told Jesus that he would die for Him, even if all others would betray Jesus ... but Jesus KNEW BETTER ---

⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ And the Lord turned and **looked** at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “**Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**” ⁶² So Peter went out and wept bitterly. Luke 22:60–62 (NKJV)

Looked in Luke 22:61 is the same as the looked in John 1:42

D. *Like God / Jesus knew David, so He knew Peter – You understand my thought afar off. Psalm 139:1*

So, He also knows us, and what He has planned for us –

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

2. *Jesus’ look at Simon was with the knowledge, plan and power to change Simon into Peter –*

Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “**You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas**” (which is translated, A Stone). John 1:42 (NKJV)

³¹ And the Lord said, “**Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.**” Luke 22:31–32 (NKJV)

A. *At the end of this Book of John Jesus will ask Simon three times, if he LOVES HIM ... He asks using the word agape – ready to die for me Love?*

B. *When He does this, He is confronting Simon’s betrayals ... Consider which name He uses - John 21:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, “**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?**”*

C. *Peter finally replies ... John 21:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “**Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?**” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “**Do you love Me?**” And he said to Him, “**Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.**” Jesus said to him, “**Feed My sheep.**”*

Peter uses the Greek word “Phileo” for love ... Peter speaks of Jesus’ knowledge ... Not a ready to die for YOU love, because I am great ... but I love YOU because You are great! Peter had to realize how wishy-washy, how UNSTABLE how Simon he was before he could become the ROCK / Stone who would strengthen his brethren – Luke 22:32

III. Consider Jesus' power to name, change and build ...

⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, **"You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas"** (which is translated, **A Stone**). John 1:42 (NKJV)

1. Renaming –

A. *Is we consider "renaming" let us first look back to the Old Testament. God renamed Abram, Abraham as He would make him the father of many nations ...*

He renamed Jacob – Israel, as he changed Jacob's nature, he was a master-manipulator, he was made a man of PRAYER who had power with God.

B. *Peter's name-change is a lot like Jacob's because it also predicted a change of nature ...*

Both the authority to change a name and the power to change a nature / character should make us think of Jesus as God!

2. Changing –

When John the Baptist talks of Jesus he speaks of His life changing baptism -

¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Luke 3:16 (NKJV)

A. *If John the Baptist, or myself baptize you, it is symbolic*

B. *If Jesus baptizes it is powerful*

- *The Holy Spirit brings a personal change, God Himself is involved in your life*

- *Fire (trials) bring a providential change –*

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2–4 (NKJV)

One of Peter's great trials was watching his Lord being taken captive. Peter is the one who said "no Lord" when Jesus started talking about the cross. And despite Jesus saying to Peter "get behind me Satan" when Jesus was heading toward the cross, Satan was able to sift Peter like wheat ...

Yet, Peter was humbled by his trial and failure! Peter was also empowered by God's Spirit at Pentecost preached boldly, the rest of his life.

C. *This change is what we call sanctification –*

Question 35 What is sanctification? Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, (2 Thess. 2:13) whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, (Eph. 4:23–24) and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness. (Rom. 6:4,6, Rom. 8:1)

IV. Consider the building –

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

The name Peter meant “rock” or the chip of a rock, a stone. Cephas is a Greek variant of the Aramaic for rock / stone ...

1. Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone –

22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. Psalm 118:22 (NKJV)

Peter acknowledges this, he teaches this –

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” 7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” 8 and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2:4–10 (NKJV)

2. Note the teaching –

:4 Christ is a living stone chosen by God

:5 We also are stones, building blocks of a spiritual house

:6 is a quotation from Isaiah –

16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily. Isaiah 28:16 (NKJV)

:7-8 from Isaiah too –

14 He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Isaiah 8:14 (NKJV)

:9-10 – Note it is not only Peter who is chosen, we too are chosen, we too are living stones - We are called both to build and be part of the building –

12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

13 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 3:12–13(NKJV)

Note like Peter we also receive a new name, symbolic of our NEW SANCTIFIED character, we are changed no less than Peter was! Meaning sanctification, eventually glorification, in Heaven! We are the New Temple, the New Jerusalem!