

Shaken pt 5: Through You > To You

Intro:

-Peter followed Jesus for 3 and 1/2 years and in that time he was part of things that changed him forever...

=crippled limbs were restored before his eyes

-he saw people who had never seen in their lives,,,, receive sight

-he saw a boys lunch feed thousands of people

-he saw people WHO WERE DEAD, be raised back to life

-he listened as Jesus brought clarity to things that had always been shrouded in mystery and confusion

-but it all came to a terrifying halt the day soldiers arrested Jesus

-Peter thought he knew how this story would end, Jesus would be killed and his movement crushed

-Peter abandoned Jesus in his darkest hour,,,, he denied even knowing Jesus,,,, then he left town and went back to FISHING

-he abandoned the people who had followed Jesus

-Peter faced something terrifying and it caused him to abandon all responsibility for others and watch out for himself.

Problem : Sadly, “Everyone for themselves” is part of our fallen human tendency.

-After the resurrection Jesus came and found Peter on his boat.

-Jesus came for the purpose of RESTORING Peter, but NOT JUST to Relationship but even to his Role and Responsibility.

-Jesus asks Peter a pain filled question: Peter do you love me?

-Jesus asks three times

-through tears Peter answered,,,, You know I love you

-it is painful because Peter knows how imperfect his love for Jesus is

-Peter basically says: “I do love you but I am weak”. “I obviously don’t love you as well as you love me”

-Jesus replies to Peter’s confession of weakness:

-“Ok, if you love me GO FEED MY SHEEP”

-“Peter I called you to lead, and I called you to serve,,, that hasn’t changed”

-Peter is thinking,,, “yeah but I blew it”

-“None the less Peter, Lets get back to it,,,, Go feed my sheep”

Series Recap:

-Decades later, Peter writes the book of 1 Peter to Christians who have been scattered all over the world by FIERCE Persecution.

-He is giving instruction on how live a Steadfast life when things are shaky.

-1 Peter 4:7 the end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind, so that you may pray.

-When Peter says “be alert and of sober mind” that is actually translated from a metaphor Gird up your mental loins. (show picture)

-we talked about the metaphor on week one but I will explain it quickly

-in the ancient world men wore long cumbersome robes

-couldnt really work hard or run in them

-if you were going to do anything physical you first stopped and girded up your loins
-rolled up your skirt. (i mean robe lol). -then secured it with your belt or with a knot

-now you were ready for action

-It took a deliberate decision and effort before you could get physical

-This metaphor is an instruction to STOP, FOCUS, GET DELIBERATE

-By telling his first listeners to “gird up”, Peter is signaling that he is getting ready to say something important that we need to take action on.

-1 Peter 4: 7-11 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

Every good thing we are and every good thing we have is a Resource entrusted to our Stewardship by God.

-That word “gift” in verse 10 means a Deposit of divine power, wisdom, or goodness.

-it is given because of how good God is, not how good we are

-these gifts cannot be earned

-God chooses to deposit these different gifts for each of us to exercise for him.

-Non Exhaustive List: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy, discernment, teaching, pastoring, apostles, evangelism, leadership gifts, service gifts, generosity, encouragement, mercy, administration

-old testament talks about people having gifts of craftsmanship, music, poetry.

-Gifts are things that we are good at. Some gifts seem natural and some seem supernatural.

-but all them have been deposited in us by God

-This is true whether you give God credit or not.

-this is true whether you use your gifts to serve God and others or if you use them to serve yourself

-you can look at the world and see people with leadership gifts, some Christian and some are not

-you can see people with a craftsman gift, some Christian, some not

-music. -wisdom.

-Peter wants us to gird up our minds with the understanding that these abilities have been Entrusted to us by God.

-Our natural human inclination is to Steward these gifts with self serving motives.

-Peter is calling on us to flip that tendency

-Peter re-establishes the most Fundamental Christian Command: LOVE.

-this all starts with and centers on **love** for God and people

-Next he uses an interesting word "**Hospitality**"

-Hospitality is taking it upon yourself to ::: Care for, Entertain, Feed, Provide, Plan for

-So, our "God entrusted abilities" are to be used in love for others out of a Hospitable Heart.

-In love how do we plan for each other,,,

-how do we think first about the needs and comfort of each other,,,,,

-how do use our gifts for the GROWTH and Encouragement of each other,,,

You are meant to be a divine pipeline carrying God's goodness into your surroundings.

-Peter really wants us to understand where these good things are coming from, and recognize the sacred potential, when they are used for their intended purpose.

-Whether it is an innate ability or a physical resource, they are God given.

-you may feel like you developed that ability,,,, you only polished the gold that was already there!

-you may feel like you earned or created that resource, it is God who gave you the strength and intellect to earn and accrue whatever resources you have.

-in all of these you MAY have shaped, refined, or polished your gold, but you did not grow it! lol

-That is God given, and it is a gift entrusted to you.

-When we recognize the source of these abilities and resources, then we can begin to imagine their potential impact.

-Peter gets specific:

-if your gift involves speaking (teaching, encourage, preaching, ...) speak as if you were speaking the very words of God!!!!

-get in touch with the heart of God

-imagine if God himself were speaking into this situation,, what would he say

-allow the Holy Spirit to Guide you and use you to be GODS VOICE

-if it is generosity:: give as if you are God himself raining down blessing

-if its craftsmanship let your hands create things that are as beautiful as what God crafted in the world around us

-craft things that honor God and give him glory

-Peter is calling on us to steward God given resources in the spirit and intent they were given in.

-recognize that God made you this way or gave you these particular things both to bless you and to bless your surroundings through you

-As you properly steward all that is entrusted to you, it will be easier if you start at the center and work your way out.

-in the coming days how can you steward what God entrusted to you, to bless those in your family? (look for opportunity there.....)

-in just 2 weeks we will join together again as a church,,,,, How can you steward what God entrusted to you, to help those in your church family flourish and experience blessing?

-even just your presence, attention, personality, and concern,, all those can be stewarded!

-it is easier if you start off by blessing and serving those who are expected also to bless and serve you

-but that is just training, ultimately God has called us to Give it Away!.....

-God wants to bless the world and bring about human flourishing through you!
-He has entrusted you with resources, abilities, and gifts to make that happen.

-so then further growth means asking what it looks like to use what is entrusted to me to bless those in my neighborhood and community,, to bring flourishing

-what does it look like in my kids school?? -in my city

-what does this look like in my workplace????

-The more you grow in you Stewardship, the further out your concentric circles of blessing will reach.

-right now some of you are using resources entrusted by God to be HIS HAND of blessing to kids in El Salvador,,,, 50 + children everyday through Feed ONE

-if you give to Grace Union, then you have been helping feed hungry families in Mombosa Kenya

-If you give you have have also recently helped feed hungry family in Fairmount City just across the river in Illinois

-We could go on and on, but its not just your money,,, it is time, words, efforts, abilities,,, God wants to use what is entrusted to you to BLESS HIS WORLD

-how far out those concentric circles reach is up to us.

-God has wired you how you are:

-made you good at what you are good at

-made your personality with its uniquenesses

-made you with your unique perspectives

-made you with unique abilities and even things seen as disabilities

-deposited different kinds of his wisdom and ability in you

-He has done all of that to bless and flourish his world through you.

-When we steward our gifts in love and service to others, God himself is being made real to people through these gifts.

-Do you want to be Steadfast? That will require seeing a steady flow of God's presence and activity.

- You will know he is with you when you see him at work through you
- that is what Peter wanted for you

-What God will do THROUGH YOU is so much greater in magnitude and frequency than what he will do TO YOU.

- as you become focused on your life serving as a Conduit
- God's gifts and resources are poured into you, so that you can pour them out for others,,,,, *when that is the case* ,,,, **there is always room for more of him in you**

-That will give you cause to be Steadfast. You will always have reason to have faith. Because you will consistently see God's power and wisdom as it works.