

Men's Midweek

10/30/2024

H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. series: AUTHENTICITY

## Jesus & Peter: a lesson in Authenticity

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### 1) Peter's Vulnerability and His Calling

**Scripture:** Luke 5:1-11

- **Summary:** Peter experiences the miraculous catch of fish and responds with humility, saying, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man." Jesus calls him to follow anyway, despite his flaws.

**Discussion Question:**

- How does acknowledging our own weaknesses make us more authentic? When was the last time you were "brutally honest" with God and with another disciple about how you're doing (spiritually)?
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### 2) Peter's Willingness to Speak Up

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:13-20

- **Summary:** When Jesus asks, "Who do you say I am?" Peter boldly declares, "You are the Messiah." Even though Peter doesn't fully understand, he's willing to step out and answer.

**Discussion Question:**

- What does Peter's willingness to speak up teach us about authenticity in our relationship with God and others? Are you willing to step out and speak up, even if you're not sure?
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### 3) Peter's Pride and Public Rebuke

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:21-28

- **Summary:** When Jesus explains His coming suffering, Peter rebukes Him, and Jesus responds with a harsh rebuke: "Get behind me, Satan!"

**Discussion Question:**

- How would you feel and respond if you were publicly rebuked by Jesus? What does this experience teach us about handling correction as part of authenticity?

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#### 4) Peter's Pride and Attempt to Prove Himself

**Scripture:** Mark 14:27-31

- **Summary:** Peter insists that even if everyone else falls away, he will not. His pride leads him to overestimate his own strength.

**Discussion Question:**

- Why do you think Peter felt the need to prove himself? How does pride impact our authenticity?
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#### 5) The disciples' Failure to Stay Awake

**Scripture:** Mark 14:32-42

- **Summary:** Jesus asks Peter to stay awake and pray, but he falls asleep. Jesus questions Peter on behalf of the group

**Discussion Question:**

- Scripture doesn't tell us, but what do you think Peter said in response to Jesus' question? When you have messed up, do you take ownership, get defensive or stay silent?
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#### 6) Peter's Misguided Defense of Jesus

**Scripture:** John 18:1-11

- **Summary:** Peter cuts off the ear of the high priest's servant, and Jesus rebukes him.

**Discussion Question:**

- Have you ever tried to "help God" in a way that ended up being counterproductive? What does this teach us about aligning our actions with God's will?
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#### 7) Peter's Denial of Jesus

**Scripture:** Luke 22:54-62

- **Summary:** Peter does come back after initially deserting, but then denies Jesus three times, fulfilling the prophecy Jesus gave earlier.

**Discussion Question:**

- The Bible tells the good, the bad, and the ugly about God's people. How can acknowledging our failures lead to greater authenticity? What effect does cowardice have on our authenticity?

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## 8) Peter's Eagerness at the Empty Tomb

**Scripture:** John 20:1-9

- **Summary:** Peter runs to the empty tomb after hearing about Jesus' resurrection.

**Discussion Question:**

- What does Peter's eagerness to see the empty tomb reveal about his heart? How does this passion and curiosity reflect an authentic desire for truth?
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## 9) Peter's Desire to Be Close to Jesus

**Scripture:** John 21:1-14

- **Summary:** After Jesus' resurrection, Peter jumps out of the boat to reach Jesus on the shore.

**Discussion Question:**

- The first time there was a miraculous catch of fish (Luke 5), Peter wanted to get away from Jesus. This time, he races to get to Jesus. What does Peter's action reveal about his relationship with Jesus? How does an authentic faith make us eager to draw near to Him?
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## 10) Peter's Restoration and Call to Follow

**Scripture:** John 21:15-23

- **Summary:** Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him, symbolically restoring him after his three denials.

**Discussion Question:**

- How did this restoration process impact Peter? What does this teach us about receiving grace and forgiveness as part of our authentic walk?

**Final Reflection Question:** What is one area of your life where you can take a step toward greater authenticity?