

From the Youth Pastor

Are You Getting In the Way?

“Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Matthew 16:22-24

What must it have been like for Peter to hear the words of Jesus when He said, *“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”* (Matthew 16:23). Peter had it all figured out; not long before this he was declaring that Jesus was indeed the Christ (Matthew 16:16) and he was ready to follow Him anywhere. How quickly that all changed when Peter was faced with the realization of what God’s plan was.

Far too often many of us could probably claim to be just like Peter. We will trust God and follow Him wherever He wants to take us until a certain point, when our own ideas get in the way. At this point we get into our, “I’ve got this under control and can fix it myself” mode. Unfortunately for Peter, he didn’t realize that this plan he was about to hinder was God’s perfect plan of salvation for all people.

I urge you to take note of the example Peter has given us, and the next time you find yourself in a troublesome situation, let God work it out. God’s plan is always perfect and always works for the good of His glory. Jesus said, *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”* (Matthew 16:24) This requires trust and the willingness to get out of the way so God can guide us and take care of us!

Pastor Ray