

**King's Way Church**  
**Message for Mar 18, 2007**  
**Written by Roger Miller**

**Reflecting on Easter: WILL THE REAL *ME* STAND UP?**  
**Matthew 26:31-35**

**A. PEOPLE: ARE WE MIXED UP OR WHAT?**

*To Tell The Truth* was a television game show that started in 1956 and has been on tv every since, reinvented in each decade. We could probably ask the famous line, *Will the real \_\_\_\_\_ please stand up?* So you see, there is something in humanity, in us, that would sell-out even our names just to get more of what we think is important for the moment. Will the people who will not sell out their identities stand up? But there is an ugly side to humanity.

Yet we also see the other side of humanity... The heroic rescue efforts and acts of tremendous courage, we want to be like that. We too want to be really heroic. THIS IS THE STORY of our humanity – is it not? In there, is a mix of heroism, a mix of cowardice, a mix of sinfulness, yet in that mix a sense of the image of the Creator, who is love and who is good, who is beautiful and perfect and holy. We are mixed up!

In our text, this morning, we find the same can be said about Peter. Wasn't he heroic? Here is the same guy who jumped out of the boat and walked on water toward Jesus (Matt. 14). How daring can you get? Talk about fear factor!

But if we to get a clearer picture of Peter we see the other side too... Peter was not in tune with Jesus... *Matthew 16:21-24* Peter could not stand the idea that Jesus must be killed. That there has to be a Good Friday. He did not want it to happen, but that will thwart the purposes of Jesus. He was sent to be our substitute for God's righteous punishment for sin. That idea of Peter's was Satanic, it was adversarial. *I think we too, have done that, not follow through to see God's view on what's occurring in our lives.* We too have the in mind the things of men not the things of God, as we get seduced by this world's glamour and promises for a better life.

**B. PEOPLE ARE COMPLEX.**

Peter was a complex person; because no one is truly one-dimensional. At different times and under different circumstances Peter behaved in different manners. Are we all not like that? **Complex, not merely one dimensional?** Did we not say, I will follow you Jesus... and then fall away too? Did we not ever walk the same road Peter has? Acted bravely then suddenly becoming fearful? *Will the Real Me stand up? Who am I?*

Romans 7:15 ff. (NLT):

The inconsistency we see in Peter's behavior is mirrored here by Paul's struggle. That **inconsistency**, brings **tension**. Shamefully we too have had episodes of denials of Christ. We too go after the easy way out, succumbing to sin's offer, to its seducing power. Look at Peter and Paul's struggle, they wept! They know it's all wrong... You can see how they publicly struggled, written in pages of the Bible... You can sense the tension they have in their lives!

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### C. SUNDAY'S A COMIN'

As we reflect on the Easter story, we will see that *much of our world is shrouded in the deadness of a Friday*, where life is extinguished, where sin seems to win out, where darkness seem to dominate. Tremendous tension... with all our complexity... problems.. **But folks, Sunday's a coming**... Jesus rose from the dead, that's when the dead come back to life, where sin is extinguished, where light pushes back the darkness.

### D. RESTORATION: THE KEY IS RECEIVING JESUS

Jesus went ahead... he is not leaving behind a corpse! He will deal with Fridays, there's gonna be a rising up from the ugliness of death, defeat, there'll be victory! It was after the Resurrection, after Pentecost, and with the memory of the transfigured Jesus still vivid in his mind, Peter became the pillar of the church in Jerusalem. His story is our story... we too can triumph over the Friday's darkness with resurrected life. For if God can restore a Jesus denying, shattered defeated weeping heap called Peter, surely He could restore you and I. Here is the crux of the matter, the key that unlocks the personality of Peter — he was a man **who had been with Jesus**. That's was the **case with Paul as well**.

What about you today? Facing some tensions in life... You know the good you ought to do, but no matter what you choose the wrong thing. You want God but you can't make it work. Well, folks, the truth is you can't make it work. Your willpower is not the answer. How do you get rid of that tension? Are you with Jesus? Can people say you are with Jesus?

Peter followed Jesus, he found grace, he found love, he found forgiveness, he found a mission, he found Jesus could take away his sins, his sin of denying Christ. If God could love me, accept me after I chose to deny Him, he could accept anyone. 1 Cor.15:9-11

So I ask, if you found favor with God, tell others of this good news. Pray for others to know the sweet release. Today some of you no doubt have fallen hard, hear Christ's word of restoration, Peter and Paul did not merely have a private faith, it was public, it was for all to see, make a public confession as well. Come and receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. They are Christians here who need to make a break with the struggle of sin and find freedom, come and pray and seek Jesus and find a renewed mission. The real you can stand up and receive God's love today. The real you can find peace with God today. The real you can be received with all the mixed up motives, good and bad and find a loving restoration!

“Our vision is to make a change in our community by being a *life-giving* church that is *true* to the Bible and *relevant* today by helping You find *Your way!*”

-King's Way Church

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