

A LIFE OF GREATNESS

CHAPTER 9 | TEACHING SEGMENT 1

(PLEASE WATCH THE STORY SEGMENT CONNECTED TO THIS CHAPTER)

OUTLINE

FROM THE PURIFYING FIRE OF GOD'S LOVE,
WE EMERGE AS LIQUID GOLD TO HEAL A BROKEN WORLD

PREMISE:

- The fire of Jesus' love TRANSFORMS prideful hearts like hard gold to lives of liquid gold that pour out His love to a hurting world

1. THE LIFE OF PETER

A. Before the cross

- Bold and boisterous, Peter possessed qualities that could make him a great leader, but before Jesus' crucifixion, he was like hardened gold. He needed to go through a purifying process so his life could be poured out as liquid gold to serve others.
- When most of Jesus' followers had deserted Him, He asked the disciples if they would also leave (John 6:67). Peter answered without hesitation, "To whom will we go? Only you have the word of eternal life."
- Though a powerful statement, Peter didn't fully understand; shortly afterward, he too turned away, afraid for his life.
- We also sometimes fail to represent Jesus properly, even on a daily basis. Our desire is there, but we haven't gone through the fire of purification.

- Peter was burning in his own glory and pride. God had to set him free.
- Luke 22:54–62: Peter denied Jesus three times when asked if he was His disciple. Though Jesus had predicted his denial, Peter didn't believe it. Yet now he was in a place of darkness and shame, hiding and grief-stricken.

B. After the cross

- Jesus was not afraid of Peter's mistakes. After His resurrection (Mark 16: 6–7), the angel of the Lord specifically mentions Peter in the command to tell the disciples that Jesus is alive.
- By including Peter, God tells us that every mistake we make is included for purification, for His glory, for the testimony He is building in our lives. Just as He did with Peter, God is redeeming your mistakes.
- Jesus remembered, trusted, and loved Peter. At the shore of the Sea of Galilee (John 21), Jesus was not asking him, How great are you going to be? or Are you going to boast about your faith? but simply, Do you love me?
- When Jesus saw Peter's heart, that he was no longer boasting about his own abilities but was accepting the love of Christ, then He said in essence, "Now I want you to go and feed my sheep. Now you're prepared to be repositioned for greater glory and purpose, a new beginning."
- Finally Peter had a true revelation of the love and forgiveness of Jesus.

C. Revelation in our lives

- Until we experience the true revelation of who God is from the Bible and it transfers into our daily reality, then, like Peter, we're still hardened gold, boasting about our own abilities. We may seem to be shining brightly with our gifts and abilities, but we don't actually help many people as hard gold.
- Until our gifts have been liquefied, we can't heal the cracks of this broken world.

- God has called us to be servants in His kingdom so that others can see Jesus manifested in our daily actions, exemplified in our character, and shown in our empathy.

D. Peter's legacy

- Peter's life was so changed and purified that later in life he asked to be crucified upside down because he was not worthy of the same death as his Lord.
- The ceiling of Peter's life became the platform for other disciples to journey the same path towards the Lord.
- In Vatican City, the Basilica of San Clemente is built directly above Peter's tomb. Peter desired to be like Jesus, to represent Him, to feed His sheep. To this day, he's literally a part of that history.
- When we step in the Basilica, we're stepping on the lives of those who have walked the pathway before us, who have become that new ceiling for us. We too can also establish that for someone else, so that our ceiling can be a new pathway for others to walk on.

2. OUR LIVES AS LIQUID GOLD

A. The fire that purifies

- Ceitci recalls a time when she was asked to help in the kitchen just after a speaking engagement. She helped joyfully, but at one point realized that those watching her seemed critical, almost mocking. Though she had thought she was beyond being bothered by the opinions of others, she felt shame.
- As she reflected on the incident, she thought of the purification of gold. As gold is purified, it goes through several layers and fires, emerging as liquid. While it's liquid, no one can own it or show it off.
- She realized that while certain areas in her life were like that—purified, flowing, with no one able to possess her—there were still areas that were hardened.

- God spoke to her, “If you really want your life to never be owned by another person, I want you stay in the fire that I am allowing you to go through, the fire of my love.”
- Peter’s fire was born out of his own pride and egotism, but the fire with which Jesus redeemed him was the fire of love. It brought him to the place of surrender so that his life could be poured out as liquid gold to serve humanity.
- Wouldn’t it be amazing to experience God’s presence, love and forgiveness, His purification fire? A fire that empties us of our own selfish ambitions and causes us to say, “It’s OK if you don’t like me, if you betray me, if you laugh at me. I’m liquid—you can’t possess me or sell me. I am owned by Jesus and He liquefies my life as pure gold.”
- Ceitci’s goal and prayer is that we would be like liquid gold poured out into this world, with a life so hidden in God that every moment we can help someone toward a restored life in Jesus.

**** PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHAPTER 9 – TEACHING SEGMENT 2**