



Holy: Holy Father March 12, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Donna Pisani

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon Overview: Peter experienced a revelation of his identity through the revelation of Jesus' identity. Peter experienced a revelation of his authority from Jesus' words to him. But Peter stumbled when God's plan didn't match Peter's expectations. We receive our identity and authority through revelation and surrender, but we must continually renew our minds to who God is so that we do not stumble on our own expectations and preconceived notions.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. The phrase "Holy, Holy, Holy!" occurs in Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8. What pictures of holiness do you see? How are the contexts for this phrase the same/different?
2. Towards the beginning of Scripture is the Song of Moses in Exodus 15. The last worship song is the Song of the Lamb in Revelation 15. What pictures of holiness do you see? How are they the same/different?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. What negative connotations come to your mind when you think about the concept of holiness? Legalism? Condemnation? How have these negative characterizations impeded your intimacy with the Lord?
2. Pastor Donna discussed the baggage, in our lives, that become obstacles in our relationship with the Lord. What types of baggage have you accrued in your life? Old wounds, wrong mindsets, attitudes, and/or traumatic experiences? Ask God to reveal baggage of which you may not be aware. Picture yourself boxing up your specific baggage and handing it off to God. How would your relationship with God change if you are no longer carrying that baggage?

3. Last week, we talked about how God's presence transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary. This week, Pastor Donna warned that God can become common in our hearts if we are not careful in cultivating our relationship with Him and honoring His holiness. Is there a place in your life where God has stopped being extraordinary and has become ordinary? Why do you think that has happened? What can you do to change it?

Digging Deeper:

- Find a promise of God in Scripture that stirs your faith. Think about the places in your life that need a touch from God to change the ordinary into the extraordinary. Meditate on this promise over those areas. Imagine what it would look like for that promise to come true in those areas. Hold that image in your mind every time you think about that area of your life.
- Peter knew the promises of God to Israel, but Peter's expectation for how these promises would be fulfilled did not match Jesus' description of the suffering He would endure. For what promise are you believing in your life? How can you offer a posture of surrender even if the path God chooses is not what you expected? Reconsider Pastor Joel's [sermon on freedom](#) and holiness: the anointing and power come through the pressing and the crushing. How does that image apply to your situation?

Practical Application:

- Join us in these 3 Lenten Challenges:
 1. **Personal Prayer** - grab a kneeler pad and make an altar. Start and end your day in prayer.
 2. **Corporate Prayer** - join us for [House of Prayer](#), Thursdays at 7:14 pm at the Capital Turnaround, and enjoy dinner on us! / Or plug in through [Upper Zoom](#) Prayer, Thursdays at 7:14am.
 3. **Weekly Fast** - sign up by texting "FAST" to 844-504-0861. Fast food or an activity for 24 hours, once a week.
- Use this prayer for the week as we revel in and enjoy the magnitude of God's holiness at work in us and around us.

Prayer: Lord, Isaiah 6:3 says, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the whole earth is full of His glory. Today, I am asking for your glory to come into my most impossible situations, into my losses, and I invite you to heal, save and deliver me. Would you recenter my gravity? Holy Spirit, would you fill me up with the holiness of God, so I can be fully who you created me to be? In Jesus' name. Amen.

- Serve at the Easter Sunrise service, April 8 & 9, at ncc.re.serveatsunrise
- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series.
- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Jump into a small group this semester. They are all listed at ncc.re/groups.