

#1039 The Latter Rain of the Cross, with the Holy Spirit – Peter and the Sword vs. Peter and the Cross

In Unsealing [#278 The Cross of Jesus Christ vs. the Rights of Man – Peter’s Cross vs. Peter’s Sword](#), the Key Understanding was about the understanding that it is entirely clear in scripture that there was a direct relationship between the condition of Peter’s heart when he rebuked Jesus about going to the *cross* (Matthew 16:21-25), and the condition of his heart when he subsequently drew the *sword* to keep Jesus from going to the *cross* (John 18:10-11).

Matthew 16:21-25 (KJV) From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and raised again the third day.

22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

*24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME**, let him deny himself, and **TAKE UP HIS CROSS**, and follow me.*

25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Being born **of the spirit** is much about **the cross that Jesus bore** (background),

while being born **of water** is much about **the cross of the believer** (foreground)



Notice this as well about Matthew 16:21-25:

While on the surface it seems like the issue is solely that of Peter denying that Jesus Christ must go to the cross, it is obvious that Jesus recognized that the *real* issue was that of the *believer*, Peter, going to the cross. That is why the Lord did not solely emphasize, “No, Peter, I must go to the cross.” Instead, he said, “**If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**”

Key Understanding: Matthew 16:21-25 and John 3:5. Note, then, how Matthew 16:21-25 matches up with John 3:5, for both subject matters of the cross that Jesus bore and the cross of the believer are covered by the Lord. Peter needed to recognize (i) that Jesus Christ must go to the *cross* [this leads to the believer being born *of the spirit*, John 3:5], and Peter needed to recognize (ii) that Peter must go to the *cross* [this leads to the believer being

born of water, John 3:5 – meaning the watering by the Holy Spirit to pick up his cross and follow Jesus Christ].

*John 3:5 (KJV) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be BORN OF WATER** [which is much about *the cross of the believer*, which means following the watering of the Holy Spirit so as to carry one's own cross and follow Jesus Christ] **and OF THE SPIRIT** [which is much about accepting the work done by *Jesus Christ on the cross*], **he cannot ENTER into the kingdom of God.***



Of course, Peter allowing the watering of God towards his own cross-carrying did not occur until after Jesus Christ had carried his cross. Peter believed he was willing to lay down his life for Jesus' sake (John 13:37), drawing the sword to keep Jesus Christ from going to the cross (John 18:10-11), but in truth was not himself willing to go to the cross for Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus answered him, "*Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice*" (John 13:38). Peter denied Jesus Christ because the condition of his heart was that of drawing the *sword* for Jesus, but not carrying his *cross* for Jesus (John 18:25-27).

Portrayal of Peter's denial of Jesus Christ

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