

*Conference is stirring/exciting: But what needs to happen after conference?*

**I. REVELATION MARKING POINTS**

**A. There are marking points in life**

1. Where things can shift in our lives
  - a. Reference points: We will look back on these for the rest of our lives and remember/line up with
2. These usually involve God speaking to us: *V13 he asked His disciples... V17 Jesus answered and said...*
3. This was an incredible time of revelation
  - a. God had spoken about His purposes (the church)
  - b. God had spoken about His power (authority)
  - c. God had spoken about possibilities (they held the keys – God could use their lives)

**B. This is like conference: God speaks to us – and speaks to us personally**

1. This can be stirring/exciting/emotional

**II. AFTER REVELATION TRUTHS**

**A. Because God has spoken to us – the job is not finished!**

1. Peter was given an incredible word of promise
  - a. *Matthew 16:17* And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
1. This can lead to pride: Clearly I'm more special than these slugs!
2. This can lead us to believe we're ready: I'm so stirred – I must be ready!
2. But there can be things lurking beneath the surface that we don't see
  - a. *V23 get behind me, Satan!* Wait, How can there be anything devilish in me?
3. This is part of the process of discipleship: God wants to reveal our hearts
  - a. God arranges situations to reveal us
  - b. One of the things God has to deal with is our pride
    1. Peter is rebuking Jesus! Peter is smarter than God!
4. We need to ask God to help us see ourselves
  - a. *Psalm 139:23-24* Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

**B. We have to examine our motives**

1. Peter reacts negatively to the idea of Jesus death: It seems like he is being compassionate
  - a. *Matthew 16:22* Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"
2. But Jesus rebukes him strongly – and deals with his motives
  - a. *Matthew 16:23* Then Jesus said to Peter, "Go away from me, Satan! You are not helping me! You don't care about the things of God, but only about the things people think are important."
3. Simply: Jesus is saying – you're trying to make ministry be about you: What you get out of it
  - a. Ego/power/\$ b. making up for our rejection: I will be important if I can preach!
4. Ministry must be about God *V23* the things of God
  - a. What does God want? b. How does this benefit God/His will? c. Who gets the glory: You or God?

**C. We have to count the cost**

1. Jesus makes them face the fact that doing the will of God always involves cost
  - a. *Matthew 16:24* Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
1. There will be things we say no to: *Deny himself...our plans/dreams/preferences*
2. There will be cost: Take up his cross...finances/relationships

**III. MEN OF AUTHORITY**

**A. The good news is that these men did respond correctly – and went on to do God's will**

1. God doesn't need perfection: He needs surrendered hearts
  - a. *Mark 16:20* And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.