



Part 3: Crossing the Line of Life and Death

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If Peter held a cardboard sign it would read: Failure

Peter identifies the Line

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

– *Matthew 16:13-16*

Peter crosses the wrong Line

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

– *Matthew 16:21-23*

Peter struggles with the Line

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" – *Matthew 16:24-26*

Peter steps away from the Line

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. – *Matthew 26:69-70*

The Line of Life and Death

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. – *Luke 23:46*

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." – *Matthew 28:5-10*

(Continues on back)

Peter crosses the Line

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and said... "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him." – *Acts 2:14, 22-24*

Jesus, I know that I have sinned. I have lived my life for myself.
I ask you to forgive me. I believe that you died on the cross for me,
to save me. You did what I could not do for myself.
I come to you now and cross the line, giving you control of my life.
Help me to live every day in a way that pleases you.
I thank you that I will spend eternity with you.
Amen.

Next Steps

Come forward at the end of the service. We would love to pray for you and hear your story. We are baptizing next weekend in every service. Make baptism your next step.

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) Why do think people love "before and after" photos?
- 2) Share the greatest personal transformation that you have achieved in your life so far.
- 3) Did you see the cardboard confessions? Which one touched you the most?
- 4) How has the resurrection of Jesus changed your life?
- 5) If you are a Christian, what did your life look like before Jesus? How is it different today?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?