

## **Sermon: All In!**

### **PP1:** *Title slide*

Thank you, ladies, for inviting me to preach today. It is truly an honor and a pleasure.

Thank you, too, Pastor, for allowing me to add my two cents worth to the ‘At the Rail’ series. I have been enjoying this study on Peter’s responses and our small group discussions so much.

### **PP2:** *Title slide with Scripture verse*

Bold, brash, big-mouth Peter. I cannot help but borrow from a Texas Hold’em phrase when I think of Peter - All In. His responses to Jesus were impetuous, brave, over-confident, risky, and naïve. Sometimes they were also obedient, faith-filled, true and often exactly what the situation called for.

### **PP3:** *“Mr. All In”*

Let’s review Peter’s antics so far in this series. First, we learned he obediently dropped the nets one more time in spite of the likely groans of his fellow fishermen. Then we saw him go against every seafaring fiber in his body to get out of the boat in a storm to be where Jesus was. Last week we saw his bravery in action when others were leaving Jesus, and Jesus asked them if they would leave too. Peter responded with the simple yet powerful question, “Where else could we go, for you alone have the words of eternal life.”

We have two of Mr. All In’s responses to cover this week. The first is from Matthew 16.

### **PP4&5:** *Matthew 16:13-18*

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” 16 **Simon Peter answered**, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by

flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it.

Here Peter declares the truth about Jesus, even though he didn't fully understand what he was saying. Jesus takes that response and commends him for it. He knew that Peter would one day live into the truth he proclaimed. He would preach and teach it and lead the other disciples based on this truth. We, as Jesus' disciples, need to declare the truths about Jesus, too, even as we learn more about what it all means. Our imperfect understanding does not diminish what is true about our Messiah.

**PP6: *Names for Jesus***

Here are some names and attributes of Jesus. Look over this list and pick a couple to focus on this week. Write them down and then meditate on them throughout this next week. Repeat out loud something like, "Jesus, I believe You are the BLANK, show me more of what that means today." Take a moment and pick a couple out.....

I charge you to confess the truth about Who He is, thank Him for Who He is, pray for more understanding of Who He is, tell others about Who He is. Truth leads to Trust. The truths that Peter discovers and declares about Jesus help him to trust in Jesus. It may help us, too.

Our next passage again demonstrates Mr. All In's personality.

**PP7&8: *John 13***

4 [Jesus] got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Here impetuous Peter tells Jesus in no uncertain terms that he does not want his feet washed by Jesus. However, when he hears he will be left out of the plan if he doesn't submit to it, he nearly dives into the basin! He asks Jesus to not only wash his feet, but his head and hands, too! This is not quite what Jesus was asking for and Peter misses the mark a bit, but Jesus also said they would all understand this better later. Jesus accepts Peter's response, gently corrects him and washes his feet.

This is an amazing story, jam packed with good stuff but today I simply want to ask two very difficult questions. When Jesus comes to us, how will we respond? What gets in the way of our response?

**PP9: All In**

1. What won't we let Jesus do for us?

Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet at first. What won't we allow Jesus to do for us? What parts of our lives is He not free to enter? What blessings are we missing out on in the areas we shut Him out of? Do we think the cost is greater than the blessings and eternal rewards? Of what are we afraid? **PAUSE**

**PP10: All In**

1. What won't we let Jesus do for us? 2. What will my response be?

The second question has to do with our response. You have heard Peter's response, what will yours be? Disobedience, apathy or laziness like the fisherman who didn't want to try one more time? Cowering in the rocking boat paralyzed by fear? Leaving when things don't go the way you wanted them to? This is how we have seen others respond in this series so far. Peter shows us a better way.

**PP11: *Mr. All In***

In the miraculous fishing story, Peter responded with obedience and the abundant blessing that followed amazed them all. Peter responded in faith when he got out of that boat in the storm and became the only follower of Christ to ever defy gravity like that. Peter put his future in Jesus' hands when he responded that he would follow Jesus because His were words of eternal life. Peter speaks truth despite limited understanding and goes All In when given the choice of having his feet washed or being left behind.

I cannot deny my faith has been stirred by this uneducated nobody fisherman from a nowhere Galilean village. Jesus did build His church on this rock of a man who eventually becomes Saint Peter, the Bishop of Rome! What could He do through you if you were to live All In for Him?! Are you willing to let Him show you what that looks like? Am I?

In a moment you will have the opportunity to come down to the Altar Rail in response to Jesus, but first I wanted to share a brief story. Last summer, we went to Upper Michigan and Door County.

**PP12: *Cave Point Park***

I found this little park where you can cliff jump into Lake Michigan. It is a 22-foot drop into the water! I thought the kids would love to do it so we stopped there. It took some convincing and some time watching others but eventually each took the plunge several times and loved it. I am so proud of how they wouldn't let fear stop them from going all in on the adventure.

Jesus has an adventure for each of us, too. Please come to the altar or stay and pray where you are. If you would like someone to pray with you, just hold your hands with your palms

facing up. Listen to this new song from Matthew West and come when you feel ready to respond to Jesus. Are you All In?

May the Lord have His way in your heart today. Amen.

**YouTube Video:** *Matthew West, All In*

**BENEDICTION:** Romans 15:13- May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen and go in Peace.