

# Wandering Heart

Small Group Study & Video Devotional

## Week Four - I'm fixed upon it

### *Matthew 16:21-23*

<sup>21</sup> From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.

<sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

New Revised Standard Version (updated edition)

### *Wandering in the Text*

What do you think Peter expected or hoped for when he professed Jesus as the Messiah?

How do you think he expected the Messiah to act and behave?

What do you think Peter said when he rebuked Jesus?

How do you think Peter felt when Jesus called him a "hindrance"?

At what moments in your life have you cried out like Peter, "God, forbid it!"

When have you faced inconvenient and difficult truths that challenged your faith or the way you see the world?

What did you cling to during those times?

## Consider

Mary Sue's story is a story of letting go and a story of setting her mind on spiritual things.

- What things did she need to release?
- What did she set her mind upon?

Has your life ever had a "course correction"?

- What was it like then?
- How do you see it now?

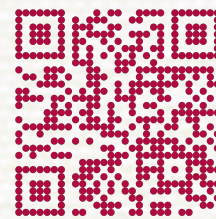
Mary Sue said, "here in Westlake we are so driven"

- Do you agree?
- What impact do you think this has?

Like Peter, Christ calls us to set our minds on heavenly things.

- Where is the Holy Spirit nudging now?
- What might you need to let go of?

## Watch Week Three Video



[www.whpc.org/new-blog/2024/2/19/lenten-journey-small-groups](http://www.whpc.org/new-blog/2024/2/19/lenten-journey-small-groups)

## Praise the Mount

We are born with the ability  
to wrap our fingers around another,  
to hold tight to what we know.  
Maybe that's where the instinct comes from -  
this clinging,  
this sinking,  
this holding on.  
Maybe that's why Peter cries, "Never!"  
when Jesus must leave.  
From the very beginning  
we've known how to hold tight.  
So I pray:  
open up my hands.  
Uncurl my fingers  
one by one.  
Loosen the grip  
that I hold unyielding.  
Remind me that birds must fly  
and children must grow  
and leaves must fall.  
And even though  
we are born with the ability  
to hold tight,  
we can learn how to love  
with open hands.

*Poem by  
Rev. Sarah Speed*

## Let us Pray

Beckoning God, in this moment, with this breath, we release our worry of earthly things to you.  
May your Spirit set our sights on your heavenly purpose, trusting in your will and walking in your way.  
May our life reflect the transformative power of surrender, sharing the joy of your boundless love that surpasses all earthly pursuits.

Amen