

Fort Payne church of Christ



The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

My Name Is Peter

My name is Peter. I, along with my brother, Andrew, am a fisherman. I am a Jew and I believe God will someday send the Messiah. Andrew and I were fishing one day when a man walked by and said, *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* We dropped our nets and followed Jesus. Our life would never be the same again.

Over the next few months, we followed Jesus wherever he went. We became Apostles to Jesus and witnessed some amazing things. Jesus had given his Apostles, there were 12 of us, some very special powers to heal the sick and drive out devils. It was like a dream and sometimes it didn't seem real. We had truly found the Messiah.

As time went by, we found ourselves speaking boldly in the temple and other places. Because of our boldness, we sometimes found ourselves in very difficult situations with the Jewish leaders. They did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah and tried to stop us from teaching others about him.

On one occasion, the high priest had me and other Apostles put in prison for speaking the truth. That night, the angel of the Lord came and opened the prison doors and let us out. He told us to *"Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life."* We gladly obeyed. When the high priest found out that we were not in the prison, but in the temple preaching, he wasn't very happy.

When we were in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked us, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" We told him that *"Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets."* He then asked *"But whom say ye that I am?"* I said, *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."* Jesus said, *"Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

On the night Jesus was taken by the mob, I told Him that, *"I would never be offended of Him."* Jesus told me, *"Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."* And to my dismay and shame, I did what Jesus said I would do. How could I deny Jesus?

After Jesus was crucified, He rose from the dead on the 3rd day just like He said He would. After He ascended to Heaven, we were in Jerusalem waiting just as Jesus had told us to do. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Ghost ascended on us and we became bold proclaimers of the Gospel of Christ. So bold, in fact, that we spoke openly to thousands of people who were in Jerusalem for the feast and we told them they were responsible for Jesus' death. We told them that in order to be saved they must, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." That day, over 3000 were baptized into Christ and the church that Jesus died for was started.

Many wonderful things happened after that day and many people believed on Jesus. I was a changed person after that. I looked back over the last 3 years and realized how weak I actually was. Now, I was filled with the *"holy ghost"* and would never deny Jesus again. I still had a few bad days like the time Paul scolded me for being two-faced. He was right to do that. I stood strong for Jesus until my death. I realized that I had been chosen to do something that only a few men could claim – to be an Apostle of Jesus Christ, the Son of God! In spite of all of my weaknesses, I overcame and claimed the victory!

Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the *"most of your minutes"* this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study tonight.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland