



desert breeze community church

Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

March 07, 2010

Jesusology

Mark 14:29-32, 53-54, 66-72

“Martyr”

This is the story of Peter’s denial. Peter is on trial just like Jesus and Peter is being questioned just like Jesus. The issue is what is a faithful witness of Jesus Christ?

Witness (testimony or testify) = Gr. Martyr. To tell the truth in general or to tell the truth in particular as it relates to Jesus even if it cost you your life. (Acts 1:8)

Jesus is being a faithful witness and Peter is not. The question that is being asked us is do you have what it takes to be a faithful witness for Jesus Christ?

Mark 14:29-32, 53-54, 66-72

Failure to be a Faithful Witness:

- **Cockiness** – Can’t handle criticism. V29-31; Pro. 16:18
- **Complacency** – Lazy in spiritual disciplines. Vv32-42; Heb. 2:1-3
- **Confusion** – Insensitivity to God’s guidance. Vv 47-49; Ps. 32:8-9
- **Compromise** – Following Jesus at a distance & warming myself at the fires of this world. Vv54, 67; Pro. 6:27-29; 1 Cor. 15:33
- **Coward** – Ashamed of the Gospel. Vv71-72; Rom. 1:16; Acts 4:13 Though I may never deny Jesus in “words”, I can fall away to the point of denying Him in “action”.

Healed to be a Faithful Witness:

The entire book of Mark is the eyewitness testimony of Peter. After this was all over Peter was healed so completely that he became a faithful eye witness and leader of the early Christian church to death (martyrdom 62 AD).

This passage is a testimony to the amazing grace of Jesus Christ! (Mark 16:7)

- The greatest failure can become the greatest leader (witness, martyr) by God’s grace through repentance! (John 21:15-19; Acts 2)
- My self-image is basically a compilation of verdicts that have been passed on to me from my performance and the approval of others. (Motivated by fear and/or pride and is ultimately fleeting) (1 Cor. 3:21-4:7; 2 Cor. 10:12-18)
- Only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ you get the verdict before the performance, because it’s the verdict that leads to the performance. (Motivated by a heart smitten by the love of Jesus and is ultimately fulfilling) (Rom. 5:1-11; Eph. 2:8-10)
- The verdict is that through the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ I am not only forgiven but also reconciled to the Father with all the rights, privileges and benefits of His Son Jesus. (Luke 22:31-32; 1 John 1:9-2:1; Rom. 8:33-35)

The Difference It Makes:

- No more guilt and shame. (Rom. 8:1, 15-17)
- No longer controlled by human approval. (Acts 7:54-60)
- I will be a faithful witness (martyr). (Acts 1:8)
- I will have an unspeakable joy. (1 Pet. 1:8)

March 14

“At-One-Ment”

Mark 15:1-15

March 21

“Mocking Jesus”

Mark 15:16-32

March 28

“Defeating Darkness”

Mark 15:33-39

April 2 (**Good Friday**) “Jesus’ Final Words” DB Offices 6:30 & 8pm

April 4 (**Easter!**)

“Empty Tomb = Full Life!”

Mark 16:1-8

(Service Times: 8, 9:30, 11 am)



Growing

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- 1) A martyr is someone who voluntarily suffers death as the penalty of witnessing to & refusing to renounce a belief. What would you be willing & not be willing to die for? How are those values reflected in how you live your life each day?
- 2) Read Mark 14:29-32, 53-54, 66-72. What are the steps that led down to Peter's denial of Christ? How are each of the steps progressive and interrelated? What is Peter's response to his failure (v72)?
- 3) If Peter's self-image was based on his performance & human approval how might he be feeling after his great failure? How does God's grace take us out of the court room of human approval & performance? What does it mean that only in the Gospel the verdict comes before the performance?
- 4) What is the verdict for those who put their faith in the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ? Peter was healed so completely that he became the leading eye witness & a leader of the early church. How does this account highlight grace and inspire hope for us fellow strugglers?
- 5) From our study what are the four ways that living under God's ultimate verdict will make a difference in your life? Which one(s) do you struggle with the most? What can you do this week to make God's verdict of you override all other verdicts? Make it your prayer.