

SHINE Devotional

Week 11 – Lesson 1



We Did Not Do This

Scripture reading Acts 3:11-13

“And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham...hath glorified his Son”

An amazing miracle took place in Acts 2. A man who was born lame was miraculously healed through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The crowd looked upon Peter and John with amazement. The crowd grew so large that Peter, John, and the lame man moved to Solomon's porch. There, people quickly Peter directed their praise to the God that they worshipped, the Father of Jesus Christ our Lord. Peter essentially said, *“We did not do this.”* This was done by your God, the Father of Jesus Christ. Over and over in Scripture, when servants of God were commended for a great work that had been accomplished through them, they immediately turned the praise back to God. That was true of Joseph, when Pharaoh approached him and asked Joseph to interpret his dream. Joseph acknowledged that it was Jehovah God that allowed him to see the future in the Pharaoh's dreams. When Daniel approached Nebuchadnezzar and interpreted his dream, the king wanted to praise him. However, Daniel gave all honor to God. John the Baptist also pointed people to Jesus Christ. We must remember that any good thing that comes from our life, comes through the person of Christ and His blessings. We must also remember that He works in our lives to bring glory to the name of Jesus.

When you bring glory to God and determine to honor Him with all your earthly achievements; then you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 11 – Lesson 2



Killing Jesus

Scripture reading Acts 3:13-15

“The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.”

Talk about an unpopular message! The nation of Israel was entrusted with the law of God. They were given prophets from God. Jesus Christ was sent in fulfillment of Bible prophecy to be their King. However, they rejected Jesus as King and turned Him over to Rome to be terribly abused and cruelly crucified. Peter was standing in the temple where many of those who took part in those unjust hearings calling for Jesus’ crucifixion were in attendance. They had seen the healing of the lame man. They had heard Peter declare that God healed him. He had also declared that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and that they were guilty because they unjustly killed Christ. He nailed them with six accusations:

1. They delivered Him to Pilate.
2. They denied Him before Pilate.
3. Pilate wanted to let Him go and they would not allow it.
4. They denied the Holy and Just One.
5. They desired a murderer instead.
6. They killed the Prince of Life.

This was a convicting and unpopular message delivered in what was enemy territory. However, Peter did not end with the death of Christ. He reminded them that God raised Christ from the dead and that they were eyewitnesses to His resurrection.

As a believer, if you are going to SHINE for Jesus Christ, there will be times that you will have to proclaim a message that is unpopular. It is essential that you speak the truth in love.

When you do, you, as a believer, will SHINE!

SHINE Devotional

Week 11 – Lesson 3

Faith Makes Us Whole



Scripture reading Acts 3:16

“And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”

In the midst of this very strange message about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Peter points to the man who had been touched and made whole and explained that his healing came not by works of righteousness, but by faith. This healing, which was by faith, gave him *“perfect soundness.”* They were all eyewitnesses to that truth. It was faith that made him perfectly whole. When God does a work of faith, He does a complete work. Nothing is left undone.

When you came to Jesus, admitted you were a sinner, and asked Him to give you eternal life, He did a work in your life that brought *“perfect soundness”* to your spirit. Ephesians says that you were spiritually dead and that He brought you back to life (Ephesians 2:1). You were made completely whole in the spiritual realm. There is nothing that can ever take you away from the love that is in Christ Jesus. You are His. You are whole. You are eternal. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

When you put confidence in what He has done, you are walking by faith and you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 11 – Lesson 4



It Doesn't Pay to Be Ignorant

Scripture reading Acts 3:17

“And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.”

Ignorance is not bliss. Ignorance can be very hurtful. God wants us, as believers, to be aware of what the Scripture teaches. *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). Many times Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees because they did not know the Scriptures. In the Old Testament, God says, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children”* (Hosea 4:6). The children of Israel disobeyed God because they did not know the Word of God. In our text today, Peter says that Israel crucified Jesus because they did not know the Scriptures. They were *“ignorant.”*

God is concerned that you understand Scripture. He has given you His written Word and the local church as a place where you can study the Word of God. I encourage you to be in church Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. God tells us that He gives us men of God to explain the Word of God (Ephesians 4:11-12). Be involved in your Bible study groups. Get involved in discipleship. Romans 1:28 tells us that the world is reprobate, teaching right is wrong and wrong is right. That is why Psalm 1 says, *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”* (Psalm 1:1-3). God wants you to prosper. He wants you to learn. He wants you to understand the principles of His Word.

I encourage you to read His Word daily and to be in church as often as possible. Allow yourself to sit under godly instruction so that you will not be ignorant of His truth. When you do, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 11 – Lesson 5



God Has a Plan for Everything

Scripture reading Acts 3:18

“But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.”

Recently, a good friend of mine completed a project that he had been working on for at least three years. The project was the restoration of a 1971 Chevy pickup truck. When he purchased the truck, it was nice, but he was not satisfied with the exterior or interior. So, he and his son-in-law took that entire vehicle apart piece by piece. They detailed every part of the body and the interior of the cab. They worked extensively on the engine down to the most minute detail. Halfway through the project, as they were sanding and priming and tearing that vehicle apart, you would have thought that they were destroying it, but that wasn't the case. They had a plan. The plan was to restore it and make it even more beautiful in the end than it was on the date of its original purchase. Today, that truck is a showpiece and is the envy of car lovers everywhere.

In our passage today, Peter had just rebuked the leaders of the nation of Israel for their unbelief which led to the rejection and crucifixion of the Promised Messiah. Peter tells them that they did it in ignorance. He then reminds them that God had planned it all to complete His purpose for the redemption of mankind so that you and I could be saved. God has a plan for everything that takes place in this world. It is absolutely important that you and I remember that no matter what is taking place in life, our God is in control. There is no time in history that Jesus Christ has not been in control and there is nothing that takes place in your life that goes without His notice. The key for success in life is learning to trust Him by faith and surrender to His control. When you learn to do that, you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 11 – Lesson 6

When Will Jesus Come



Scripture reading Acts 3:19-26

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”

Our passage today tells us exactly when Jesus is coming. Two thousand years ago, Jesus came and presented Himself to the nation of Israel as their Messiah. He did miracles and signs among them to prove that He was sent from God. Nicodemus, a well-respected religious leader, said about himself and the other Pharisees, *“we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him”* (John 3:2). Jesus healed the sick, opened blind eyes, and raised people from the dead. He demonstrated the miraculous power of all-mighty God. No one in His day denied the miracles. However, since they did not want to receive Him, some of the leaders attributed His work to Satan and caused the nation to reject Him as the Messiah. Jesus went to the cross, suffered, died, paid for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead. Now anyone who wants to go to heaven, can call on Jesus and ask Him for salvation. Soon believers will be raptured, taken out, and God will call the nation of Israel back to Himself. There will be a seven-year period called the Tribulation. Through the Tribulation, God will bring Israel to a point of repentance. When the nation of Israel recognizes it made a mistake in rejecting Jesus through the preaching of 144,000 chosen Jewish witnesses, then Jesus will come again and restore the kingdom. That is the promise that Peter makes to the nation of Israel in Acts 3.

Today, I am encouraged because seventy-three years ago, God allowed the nation of Israel to be reestablished. Three years ago, Jerusalem was recognized as the official capital of the nation of Israel. Everything is in place for this conversion. Jesus is coming soon.

When you, as a believer, live in the ever-present reality of Christ’s soon return, you will SHINE.