

SHINE Devotional

Week 13 – Lesson 1



People Are Always Watching

Scripture reading Acts 4:13

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”

Your actions and attitude are constantly being observed by other people. You are an ambassador of Jesus Christ. As people observe your life, they are making a determination not only about you, but also about the God you serve. In our passage today, Peter and John were brought before the unbelieving Jewish council called the Sanhedrin. They were questioned about what they were teaching and about the healing of the lame man. The words were not as important as what the Sanhedrin saw. “[T]hey saw the boldness of Peter and John, ...they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13). It is important that you realize that you, as a Christian are constantly being observed. In your home, your children observe you. In your home, your spouse observes you. When you are at work or in the neighborhood, your coworker and neighbors observe you. They know you by what you do and how you respond. Those that observed Peter and John knew that they did not have formal education. They also knew by their actions and their attitudes that they had been with Jesus.

At this moment, we are living through the Coronavirus scare. People are frightened for their lives and for the lives of their loved ones. People are demanding their rights, protecting themselves, and sometimes making unkind and inconsiderate demands on you. You must remember that they are watching you as a Christian. You must surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit, and realize God has placed you in the situation you are in right now so that you can reflect Him. The Sanhedrin and the leaders of the temple were watching Peter and John, and they took note that they had been with Jesus. May people who are watching you take note of the same. My prayer is that you will SHINE for Him.

SHINE Devotional

Week 13 – Lesson 2



Acts of Grace Create Opportunities to SHINE

Scripture reading Acts 4:14-16

“And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.”

The story we are examining is quite amazing. Peter did not attempt to do anything to advance himself, he was simply walking into the temple. He saw a lame man and admitted his inability to meet the request of the lame man. He couldn't give him silver or gold, but he could give him Jesus. He was simply showing grace and kindness to someone in need. However, this selfless act put him in a position to influence the leaders of Judaism.

People in our world are constantly seeking a place of influence. They will push people out of their way and step over them in order to get to a position of prominence. They ignore the needy because the needy can do nothing for them. They seek respect and recognition from the rich and famous. This should never be the attitude of the Christian. Our desire should not be for recognition, fame, or wealth. Our desire should be to serve. There are people that are placed in your path by the Lord Jesus Christ who need your ministry. These are people He wants you to influence.

When you allow to God to work graciously through you to help others, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

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Week 13 – Lesson 3

Not Everyone Wants Light



Scripture reading

“But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.”

It is an amazing fact that Peter and John were standing in the midst of a group of religious leaders who claimed to serve the same God they served. Yet, those religious leaders were blinded to the truth of the Gospel. They stood there in the presence of people who had seen the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They had heard the message of Peter and John themselves. They observed a lame man who was miraculously standing before them, yet, they rejected the truth of the Gospel and the salvation that was freely offered to them through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians will sometimes beat themselves up because they try to share the Gospel but people will not listen. They count themselves as failures, but the fact is not everyone wants truth. There are people that do not want to see the light of God.

I walked out to the front of our church one day and there were three teenagers sitting on a bench that we had placed by the door for visitors and guests. They were dressed with dark clothes and silver studs. They were pierced and tattooed all over. I talked to them and invited them into my office and shared with them the Gospel. Two of them gladly received Jesus Christ as Saviour. One of them looked at me in absolute defiance and said, “No, I don’t want to do that.”

Another time, I was out visiting and going door to door with a friend. I handed a gospel tract to one man. He said, “You religious people are the cause of every problem in this world.” I have knocked on hundreds of thousands of doors and very seldom do I have that type of negative reaction. The fact is, there are people who will mock truth and openly reject it. When that takes place, we must not refuse to SHINE or hide our light under a bushel. While we accept the fact that some people will just reject the truth, but most people are gracious and kind. We need to do everything we can to share the Gospel with everyone we can and leave the results to Christ. When you determine that you are going to share God’s truth, even if someone rejects that truth, then you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 13 – Lesson 4



When the Name of Jesus Is Offensive

Scripture reading Acts 4:18

“And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.”

The Christian loves the name of Jesus Christ. We know that He loves us, that He came, suffered, and died to pay the penalty of our sins. He was buried and rose from the dead for us. We know that He loves us. We know that He cares for us. We believe all that is written about Him in the Scriptures, but that is not true for many people in the world. There are religious people who want to get to heaven by their good works. The name of Jesus is offensive to them. The name Jesus means Saviour. Many religious people don't think they need a Saviour. There are sinners that love their sin and do not want to admit that it is displeasing to God. The name of Jesus Christ, the righteous Son of God is offensive to them, because Jesus said if you love me, keep my commandments. When I recognize that Jesus Christ is God, then I must accept that His Word is true. His Word says that I am a sinner and deserve to go to hell. My sin was so bad that He had to die in my place, be buried and rise again for me. There is no other way to get to heaven except through Him. If someone is a member of another religion, trying to get to heaven by my good works, baptism, or some religious system then the name of Jesus will be offensive to them.

As a Christian, there are times when you might need to change your attitude. You may need to change the way you carry yourself in order to be more relevant to your culture. You may have to change several things to be a more effective witness, but you can never change your message. That message is that Jesus Christ is God. We are all sinners and there is no other way to heaven except through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. That message will sometimes offend, but as a believer if you proclaim that message, you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 13 – Lesson 5



Submission – Never Rebellion

Scripture reading Acts 4:19-20

“But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

This passage has been used by some Christians to justify an attitude of rebellion. Many people misquote this passage of Scripture and declare that Peter and John rebelled against the authority of the chief priest and elders. However, the Bible teaches us submission, not rebellion, is God’s plan for the believer. The fact is, this story is a story of absolute submission by Peter and John to a Higher Authority. In God’s economy there is a chain of authority. God is at the top of that chain. He has several different human authorities that He works through such as parental authority, civil authority, spousal authority, and Spiritual authority. God uses authorities in our lives to give us direction. We can determine God’s will in our life, in most cases, by simply asking those who are in authority over us for their direction and input. God will direct us through that. However, if our authority tells us to do something that is totally and completely contrary to the Scripture, then we must choose to obey the higher authority. It is not an act of rebellion to obey the highest authority rather than a lower authority that is walking in disobedience to God. You may argue, “Well, the result is the same. Peter and John did not do what the spiritual leaders said,” But there is a huge difference. They did have an attitude of submission. If I have the right attitude, my demeanor will reflect Jesus Christ. Jesus submitted to authority. He became obedient unto death. When the spiritual authority in Peter and John’s life was in rebellion to the higher authority, they chose to obey the higher authority.

We must always obey God and then submit to authority. Peter and John chose to preach Christ and take the punishment for doing so. They had an attitude of submission and a heart of obedience. That is what you must have if you will SHINE for Jesus.

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Week 13 – Lesson 6



Reach Those Who Will Listen

Scripture reading Acts 4:21-22

“So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.”

Years ago, I made a determination to not argue with people who disagree with me about the Gospel. It is not my responsibility to convert the sinner. It is my responsibility to share the Good News. My brother said to me years ago, “David, I don’t want to ever talk to you about religion or politics again. I don’t want to hear about Jesus.” My response was simple. I stopped talking to him about Jesus. I didn’t see him very often, though his wife and son came to our church. One day I stopped by his house to visit with his wife and son. He came right to my face and asked, “Why don’t you ever talk to me about going to church anymore? Why don’t you talk to me about Jesus?” I looked at him and said, “Rick, two years ago you told me you did not want to hear about Jesus ever again. My thoughts are if you don’t want to hear about Jesus, I am not going to force him on you. If you are saved, then God will chasten you and you will have the most miserable life you can on earth if you walk in disobedience to your heavenly Father. If you are not saved, then when you die you will go to hell. So, why should I make your life miserable while you are on this earth?” He looked shocked. He said to me, “How can you, my brother, say such a thing to me?” I said, “I am just honoring your wishes.” From that time on, though he continued to live a life contrary to the Word of God, he never asked me to not talk about Jesus again. He even began to share Jesus with others.

I am not here to argue with the anyone who chooses to reject the deity of Jesus Christ and salvation by grace through faith. I am here simply to declare the Gospel. If someone wants to argue, I just walk away. Why? Because there are multitudes who would love to hear the truth. I will not waste my time with the elite, or those who think they know better. They have made their decision. Millions of other people have never had that chance. We need to reach those that will listen. When you make that determination, you will SHINE.