

CAN THEY SEE JESUS IN ME?

Key Verse: Matthew 26:56b-58; 69-75

Key Thought: Allow Your Life to Reflect Jesus

One day as a woman was crossing a street at London station, an old man stopped her. He said to her, "*Excuse me, ma'am, but I want to thank you.*"

She looked up and exclaimed, "Thank me?"

He replied, "*Yes ma'am, I used to be a ticket collector, and whenever you went by you always gave me a cheerful smile and a good morning. I knew that smile must come from inside somewhere. Then one morning I saw a little Bible in your hand. So, I bought one, too, and I found out about Jesus from that Bible. Now I too am saved!*"

That man saw something in that woman that touched his heart. What did he see? He saw Jesus living in and through her life. Each one of us, who is saved, should so live that the world can see Jesus in our lives.

In this passage, Jesus has been arrested and taken to the home of the High Priest. Simon Peter follows Him at a distance and winds up outside the house of the High Priest, sitting beside a Roman fire. That night, by that fire, Peter had his greatest failure. He had been put in a position where his light could have shone brightly, but it was invisible. No one was able to see Jesus in Peter that night. Peter was saved, born again, and living a new life, but on that night, nobody knew!

I want to ask a question, and I want each of you to ask it to yourselves right now. ***Can THEY See Jesus in ME?*** Let's look at this passage. As we do, please keep that question in mind. Why? Because everyone who is saved is to be living new life!

We have been born again and we are new creatures in Jesus. We are to be different than we were. We are to be lights for Christ in a dark world. We are to be a living, breathing, walking testimony to the life changing power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, I ask myself, and I ask you to ask yourself: *Can They See Jesus In Me?*

I. THE WONDER OF THE NEW LIFE – IT IS A TRANSFORMATION

Simon Peter was not the man he used to be! He had been radically transformed by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ!

A) His Past – Peter was a fisherman. They were notorious for their vulgar ways and wicked lifestyles. By Peter’s own admission, he was a sinful man, *Luke 5:1-8*. Do you remember where you were when the Lord found you? You may not want to remember, and I can relate to that, but can you remember your life *before* Jesus? Do you remember the day His light shone in your darkness? Let me remind you of what is said in *Romans 3:10-12*

“As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

B) His Profession – When Peter bowed before Jesus on that fishing boat, he called Jesus, “Lord”, *Luke 5:8*. But, we know the depth of Peter’s profession when we read what he said about Jesus in Matthew 16:13-18. Again, we can read his profession in John 6:64-71. Peter was a saved man. He was a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Has there been a moment when you bowed before the Lord Jesus and received Him as your Saviour? Have you believed in His name by faith and been saved? If so, you too have a profession of faith.

C) His Proof – There were times when Peter excelled in his walk with the Lord. I have already mentioned two times when he had a vocal profession while others were silent. Peter had even sought to defend the Lord Jesus using a sword. Even after the arrest of Jesus, when all the other disciples had fled away, Peter “followed him afar off”. Peter had real fruit in his life. Can you see fruit in your life? The presence of fruit is the badge of your salvation, as “every” branch in Jesus bears fruit! Do you have the proof? If so, awesome! Do you know what spiritual fruit is? There are three basic types of fruit that the Lord bears in the lives of His children. **1. Sanctification** - That is, we become more like Him - Romans 6:22; Philippians 1:11; Colossians 1:10. **2. Spirituality** - That is, we behave more like Him - Galatians 5:22-23. **3. Souls** - That is, we are burdened like Him - Romans 1:13. Do you have any proof in your life?

D) His Problem – In spite of all that Peter had in his plus column, he still fell into sin. He denied the Lord Jesus three times. At one point, he does so while cursing, Matthew 26:72. Regardless of the changes we have experienced through Jesus, it is always possible for us to fall back into sin! Why? Because we still wear this old, fallen, wicked flesh! It never gets better, but it progressively gets worse, Ephesians 4:22! You are just as capable of sin today as you have ever been! Nothing but the good grace of God stands between you and the most terrible of sins tonight! You say, “Not me! I would never do that kind of thing!” Look out; because you are a prime candidate, 1 Corinthians 10:12. Just when you think you have it under control, and put to death, it will spring to life, and you will be backslidden and out of God’s will! We see The Wonder of The New Life. It is a transformation! But the seeds of sin still dwell within the heart of every believer! So be careful!

II. THE WITNESS OF THE NEW LIFE – IT IS A TESTIMONY

Every life of every redeemed person is a living, walking sermon about the Lord Jesus Christ. Your life either says, “Jesus saved me and radically changed my life.” Or, your life says, “Yeah, I’m a believer, but Jesus hasn’t changed my life at all.” Peter, at this point in his life, is demonstrating a very poor testimony. Several factors contributed to this tragic display on Peter’s part.

A) He Is in The Wrong Place – Peter followed Jesus, but he did not go all the way with Jesus. He stays outside warming himself around the enemy’s fire! He would have been better off hiding with the other disciples, or in custody with Jesus than where he was! There are just some places in this life where a believer has no business being! Before you go anywhere, you ought to ask yourself, “If Jesus were to accompany me there, would He be comfortable?” If the answer is “No!”, then you have no business going either! Why? Well, if you are saved, then He does go everywhere you go! Be careful where you go, people are watching!

B) He is With the Wrong People – That night Peter associated with the wrong crowd, and it wasn’t long until he was acting just like them! You need to exercise great caution when it comes to the people you associate with! Why? The Bible tells us that the wrong kind of influence on our lives can have tragic results, *1 Corinthians 15:33*. Don’t think you can hang around with the wrong influences and change them, you will find that your old, fleshly nature will always take the path of least resistance. Instead of you lifting them up to your level, they will drag you down to theirs. Be careful who you associate with, people are watching!

C) He Gives the Wrong Performance – The Bible tells us that Peter began to swear, v. 72; Mark 14:71! He certainly did not look like or sound like a preacher at that moment in time! What does your life have to say about Jesus? If a person followed you everywhere you went and watched all that you did for 24 hours, would they conclude that you were a pagan, or a Christian? If they watched your TV shows and movies; if they listened to your music; if they met your friends; if they listened to all your conversations; if they saw how you treat other people or how you react when you are wronged; and the list could go on, what would they conclude about your life and about your Lord? You need to think about that! Many believers are having an identity crisis of sorts. They have forgotten **WHOSE** they are, and they are sending the wrong message to a lost world. We are supposed to make Jesus look good and not bad, Philippians 1:27. We are supposed to help weaker believers grow and not lead them into error, Matthew 18:6. What kind of message does the letter of your life send?

III. THE WAY OF THE NEW LIFE – IT IS A TRIUMPH

A) There Is Remembrance In The New Life – Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him earlier, **Matthew 26:33-35**. No matter how far you may wander off into sin; no matter how cold your old heart gets toward the things of God; no matter how low the embers may burn in your soul, you will never be able to get away from what Jesus did in you when He saved your soul! If you have ever been near the fire, you will always remember the warmth and you will long for it when your heart gets cold! When the church in Ephesus got cold on the Lord, Jesus counseled them to “*remember*”, **Revelation 2:1-7**. Some of God’s people need to remember who they are and whose they are!

Your life, your body, your time, your money, your youth, etc. are not yours to use as you please. They are the Lord's gracious gift to you for you to use for His glory!

B) There Is Repentance in The New Life – We are told that Peter went out and “*wept bitterly*”, v. 75! He, no doubt, confessed his sins and called out to the Lord in humble repentance! I believe the Lord forgave him when he did! When we have walked away from the Lord and find ourselves in sin, we are to come before Him in repentance, **1 John 1:8-10**. We are to get before Him and make it right. We look at the world and talk about how wretched they are. Well, what do you expect? They are dead in sin and are rotting accordingly! We, however, have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness. We have been made new creatures and we are to live like it! When we fall, and we do, we are to get before the Lord and make it right. If we don't, He has a way of getting our attention, **Revelation 3:19** By the way, Jesus also counseled the church in Ephesus to repent, **Revelation 2:5**

C) There Is Restoration in The New Life – Peter fell, but the Lord forgave him and restored him. When the day of Pentecost came around, Peter stood in the power of the Holy Spirit and preached the Gospel. When he did, 3,000 souls were saved! Yes, he fell, but it wasn't permanent! The Lord restored Peter and used him for His glory! Regardless of what you may have done, or the level to which you have fallen, if you repent, the Lord will restore you again! With Peter, it took some time, but the day came when the Lord put His blessings back on the life of Peter and He can restore you too! He told the church in Ephesus to “*do the first works*”, **Revelation 2:5**. He was telling them that it was possible to reclaim lost ground! Do not let your failures be the final statement concerning your life.

Get back to Him, confess and repent of your sins. He will restore you to a place of power, service and glory!

In Closing, I want to tell you about a group of prospectors who set out from Bannock, Montana (then capital of the state), in search of gold. They went through many hardships and several of their little company died enroute. Finally, they were overtaken by the Indians who took their good horses, leaving them with only a few limping old ponies. Then they threatened them, telling them to get back to Bannock and stay there, for if they overtook them again, they would murder the lot of them. Defeated, discouraged, and downhearted, the prospectors sought to make their way back to the capital city. On one occasion as they tethered out the limping ponies on a creek side, one of the men casually picked up a little stone from the creek bed. He called his buddy, asking for a hammer and upon cracking the rock, he said, "It looks as though there may be gold here." The two of them panned gold the rest of the afternoon and managed to gather twelve dollars' worth. The entire little company panned gold the next day in the same creek and gathered fifty dollars, a great sum in those days. They said to one another: "We have struck it!" They made their way back to Bannock and vowed not to breathe a word concerning this gold strike. They secretively set about re-equipping themselves with supplies for another prospecting trip. But when they got ready to go back, three hundred men followed them. Who had told on them? No one! Their beaming faces betrayed the secret!

Can they see Jesus is me? I don't know about you, but when I got saved, I got a greater treasure than ten thousand mountains of gold. Like those old prospectors, I should be beaming because Jesus is on the inside! If He is there, He should be visible in our lives.

If He isn't and the Lord has touched a sore spot in your life, then get to Him and get the help, forgiveness and restoration to need. If you are saved and everything seems all right with the Lord, then get to Him and ask for help to keep it that way. And, if you are lost, please come to Jesus right now and get saved! This altar is open for you!

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Place: FCA

Date: September 1, 2024

Time: 10:30am

After Service: "I Speak Jesus"