

Solid Rock & Sinking Sand

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2 (2nd) Baby Dedication - Dominic/Kerry-Lee/Izzy/Beatriz Joy Gomez [Beatriz = Bringer of Joy]
 1. And Joy was brought this week. Bea's final Adoption hearing was this last Wed.
 2. After 3yrs of waiting, God does it right in the middle of Nov *National Adoption Month*.
- B. Slide#3 Thanksgiving Eve Service - Wed 7pm. Jr.H./H.S. w/us in Sanct [worship/comm/giv thanks]
- C. Slide#4 Philippines Relief Update - \$3000 1/2 to CC Iloilo; 1/2 to Pastor Louis.
- D. Slide#5 This Sat 30th - Town Square Park. **Festival of Trees** on display (CM Tree). Push Cart Parade. **Local choirs** singing in the park(C.M.H.S's *Show Choir*). Vendors village w/ crafts, food. Concert w/The Brewer Boys. Tree lighting ceremony. From 4-8:30pm.
- E. Slide#6 Xmas Catalog - next Sunday.

II. Intro:

- A. Slide#7 Title: **Solid Rock & Sinking Sand**
- B. Here we the most famous trial in human history.
 1. **He** was tried before **the world & the world** was tried before **Him**.

III. Slide#8 **SOLID ROCK, JESUS (53-65)**

- A. Here we have a scene that would be likened unto: A Sheep...being led away by a pack of hungry hyenas, to stand trial & conviction before a jury of starving coyotes & a blood thirsty wolf/judge.
- B. This trial was in 2 sets of 3 stages (Jewish trial & Roman trial).
 1. Slide#9 Jewish Trial. 1st tried by Annas (former H.P.); then moved to the full council (depicted here); then to an early morning session for the final vote of condemnation. Mk15:1
 2. Roman Trial. 1st to Pilate; then moved to Herod; then back to Pilate.
- C. Slide#10 We visited this place last time in Israel, St. Gallicantu, the cocks crow. [Explain pics]
- D. (61) Mt.26:63 I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.
 1. Now he had to answer according to law. And so he does before this *Kangaroo Court*
- E. (62) And now was the right time for him to reveal Himself plainly...**I AM!**
- F. Son of Man – This title was *Messianic* Dan.7:13 but he also blends 2 others Ps.110:1 & Is.52:8. Thus blending this into *a confession* of who he was & *a terrible warning* of their impending judgment.
 1. Slide#11 Is.52:8 When the LORD returns to Zion, **they will see it with their own eyes**.
 2. Dan.7:13 I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like **the Son of Man**, Coming with the clouds of heaven.

3. Ps.110:1 The LORD said to my Lord, **Sit at My right hand**, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.

a) The **Rock** of our Salvation...did not crack. Kent Hughes pg.182

G. Jesus stood Rock-Solid.

1. Guilty of only 1 thing, **Guilty of love in the 1st degree**.

2. For **us** to stand the same we must live in *profound moment-by-moment dependence upon the Father*.

a) Paul summed it up best, **for my power is made perfect in weakness...For when I am weak, then I am strong**. 1 Cor.12:9,10

(1) **Slide#12** Vance Havner said, "The Lord had the strength & I had the weakness, so we teamed up. It was an unbeatable combination."

(2) **Slide#13** Hudson Taylor said, "God choose me because I was **weak enough**. He trains somebody to be **quiet enough**, & then uses him."

b) Again Paul writes, **But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us**. 2 Cor.4:7

c) **Slide#14** The Reformer **Thomas Cranmer** under duress was forced to write recantations of his faith, **yet** stood later in **the Great St. Mary's Oxford** & **renounced his recantations**. He promised that if he must be burned, the hand which wrote them would burn 1st. And when he did die at the stake, he held his hand in the flames until his life was gone.

(1) How else did he do this but by dependence upon the Father.

(2) **How can any man or woman today living in Murrieta, CA or Morogoro Tanzania, live out a consistent Christian life...but by a conscious dependence upon God?**

H. (65) "*Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In my place condemned He stood; Sealed my pardon with His blood. Hallelujah! What a Savior.*"

IV. **Slide#15 SINKING SAND, PETER (66-72)**

A. **Slide#16** Here stands (& later sits) Peter warming his hands at **the enemies fire**.

1. Oh not necessarily **all** who stood around it, **but** the **one invisible enemy** who also was warming his harsh hands.

2. **Slide#17,18** I picture Peter's steps here like a small child doing a poor job roasting marshmallows:

a) **1st** the warmth of the flame & all is well for Mr. Marshmallow; **then** comes the 1st small burn, he feels the heat of the 1st incriminating flames (but quickly its blown out) "I'll be ok", **but** next time that burn is a lil bigger, Mr. Marshmallow is sweating now (& you realize what a close call that was); **but** the next time sure enough it is **out of control** & he's **fully inflamed**; **then** the child is left w/nothing but *the charred remains*.

b) Those seem to be **Peter's 5 steps** to getting burned: "*From warmth to weeping.*"

- B. The Shepherd was smitten & the sheep scattered & huddled all over Judah's hillside in the cold of the night.
1. Only 2 were brave enough to **backtrack** & **trail** their Shepherd. [John]
 2. Peter must have been so confused...*What do I do?* I love Him! He would come for me! *How can I help Him? Should I help Him? I'm not trying the sword thing again! I could testify on his behalf...but they'd nab me for sure, & it wouldn't even help against this jury-rigged jury.*
- C. Slide#19 But tonight, Peter aka **Rock** would *crumble*.
1. Peter was known as **the rock**. The Gibraltar of the disciples. Yet, the rock was not w/o its cracks.
 - a) *Hairline fissures* lead to *crumbling* under pressure & Christ had detected **the crack** in Peter's character.
 2. Peter started the evening w/*If I have to die w/You, I will not deny You* [That's **Rock**]
 3. **Later**, he single-handily took on the whole mob by himself w/**his sword** [That's **Rocky**]
 4. **But** before dawn he *wouldn't be able to stand* before a young maid. [That's **Pebbles**]
 - a) From a **rock to rocky to pebbles**.
- D. Slide#20 How could such a dedicated disciple fall so hard, fail so miserable, & disown allegiance to the one he loved?
1. That answer is important to us because if *the Apex of Apostles* can fall...**then** so can you & I.
 2. **The answer is simply laid out by Luke 22:31,32.**
 3. Satan **asking** implies permission is needed. (like in Job 1)
 4. Ken Gire says, "Tonight into those hands Peter would fall. Satan wants to thresh his faith & beat it into the ground until the husk breaks open. Then he'll show the world what's really inside Peter's heart. And once the other disciples see this, the backbone of the revolution will be as good as crushed."
 5. It's healthy for me to remind myself of who/what I'd effect if I fell!
 - a) My wife, my children's respect, my character, my reputation, my example, my credibility. My church friends, my church I get to serve at, other ministry opportunities, serving on other boards, chaplaincy, community embarrassment, & **especially...the shame I would give to the name of my Lord.**
 6. **What would you lose?...Count the cost...please.** I've had to add up the tally **too late** with too many friends over the years.
 - a) You come up w/**your list** & place it in your bible somewhere for reference. (homework)
 - b) Put your name in Simons place - Say it twice as you read those 2 vss.
 7. Slide#21 Note, the 3 players: Satan sifts; Christ prays; you return...*after you blow it.*

- E. **Slide#22** (70) **Denied again**- Ask not, *Lord, have I've denied You?* **But** ask, *in how many areas of my life have I denied you? In how many ways? In how many different times?* Ken Gires prayer; pg103
1. **When I'm too busy to pray, I deny** that You are the center of my life
 2. **When I neglect Your Word, I deny** that you are competent to guide me.
 3. **When I worry, I deny** that you are Lord of my circumstances.
 4. **When I turn my head from the hungry & the homeless, I deny** that you are a God of mercy who has put me here to be your hands & your feet.
 5. **When I steal something from another person to enrich or enhance my life** – whether that be something material or some credit that is rightly due another, which I have claimed for myself - **I deny** you are the source of all blessings.
 - a) **Yes, we deny him daily.**
- F. (71) **Curse** - He was saying, *“Let me be under a curse if I am not telling the truth.”*
1. **Swear** - Means **to swear an oath**, as one does in court. *[a formal, legal, denial]*
- G. **Slide#23** (72) Read about **The Look** – Lk.22:61,62.
1. **It doesn't say**, Jesus uttered any words like **Peter, Peter, Peter**.
It doesn't say, He shook His head in **disgust**.
It doesn't say, He lowered His head in **disappointment**.
It doesn't say, He said, *“I told you so!”*
 2. **Slide#24a Instead** it's a look of sympathetic understanding from **the 1** who understood better than all, what it was to fall into **Satan's sifting hands** for 40 days in a barren desert.
 3. It is with **that look** that all Peter's emotions suddenly caved in. **Like a small dirt clod being crushed to powder in a man's hand.**
- H. **And he wept bitterly** – **But though it's Friday...Sunday's a comin!**
1. The night was about to turn to dawn. **The winnowing was over.**
 - a) We learn to **eat our words** w/the **bitter herbs** of **Repentance**.
 - b) **And** may we never take a dry-eyed look at **sin** again.
 - c) **And wasn't it that 1st tear** down his cheek that **cleansed** his dirty soul? :)
 2. **Slide#24b** All that was left was **a naked kernel of faith**. - A small **grain** but grain nonetheless. **A grain** Satan couldn't touch. Oh he can touch **the chaff** that he asks for...**but** not the **Grain**. **The grain** belongs to the Lord & He **will** bring it into His granaries
 3. **Slide#25 Story** - When I was down in the most southern part of India at GAF's Seminary, KP's son **Danny** was giving Greg & I a tour. As we were walking he happened to point out a huge **Cashew Tree**. And started to explain the process of getting a Cashew. (Intriguing, so I researched a little bit)

- a) When the nut is **Picked** it must be 1st **Cracked Opened** properly (If it's not, the toxic resin will get on the cashew nut, making it inedible). It then is **Roasted** which removes the 1st shell. The **Black Oil** is removed (that toxic resin, also found in poison Ivy). It is **Roasted again** thus removing the 2nd shell. *Finally the Nut is Free.*
- (1) What a perfect picture of our **Salvation & Sanctification**.
 - (2) **Slide#26a** We're **Picked** (chosen by God). **Cracked Open** (our hearts scored open before God with a surgeons care). **Roasted** (thru trials through life). The **Black Oil** drained from our life (aka **sin**). And then **Re-Roasted** (in life's toughest trials). Then finally...**the Nut is Free**.
 - (a) **Slide#26b** You become a **smaller** man/women/nut, **now** that that old husk if off of you. You become **broken & bare** before him.
- I. Peter got far. How far would we have gotten? He failed *in the court yard* where the others dared to set foot. He failed, not under normal pressure, but in Satan's own heavy winnowing pressure.
1. **Ps:** Let's remember it was Satan doing the sifting, not Jesus. Jesus was doing the praying!
 2. Matter of fact Jesus **warned, looked, forgave, & would restore him, times 3, soon.**
- J. **Slide#27** Jesus wants **neither Regret** (involves just the **mind**); **nor Remorse** (involves the **mind & emotions...we feel terrible**); but **Repentance** (involves the changing of the **mind**; the changing of the **emotions**; **AND** the changing of the **will...i.e. turning away from sin**).
1. One failure doesn't make a flop. He is the God of a second chance.
 2. At Pentecost, Peter wielded a different sword, a spiritual sword (the Word of the Spirit) and won a victory.
 - a) And **so thankful** for being given this 2nd chance, Peter would **carry the gospel** all the way to **Rome**, where they crucified him upside down.
- K. **Slide#28,29** Statue of Peter w/Keys/Rooster. Mixture of courage/cowardice; success/failure
- L. 4 quick Lessons from Peter:
1. No one - *not even a spiritual rock* - is immune to failure.
 2. God knows our precise breaking point.
 3. When surrounded by wrongdoers, doing wrong comes easy.
 4. The 1st step toward correction is not act like we're strong but to admit we are weak.
- M. The writer of this next Hymn, **Come thou Fount, Robert Robinson** (saved under George Whitefield's ministry) had wandered away like a prodigal son. **Until**, one day while riding in a stagecoach & sitting beside a woman who asked him what he thought of these words, "*Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love.*" Bursting into tears Robinson said, "**Madam, I am the**

poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, & I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then.”