

“Don’t Look to us; Look to Jesus!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. Kosovo Update – Randy & Lycia.
- 1.2. Pastor Lam – great reports.

2. PETER PREACHES ON THE PORCH! (11-)

- 2.1. **DON’T LOOK TO US!** (11,12)
- 2.2. Solomon’s porch – portico, colonnade.
 - 2.2.1. Columns, covered area, all around Temple mount.
 - 2.2.2. On Eastside (opposite side “Western Wall”)
- 2.3. The people **ran together**...& were **greatly amazed** –
 - 2.3.1. This helps to **define & distinguish** Christianity.
 - 2.3.2. **Christianity is a phenomenon.** It isn’t a teaching only (though there obviously is teaching there).
 - 2.3.3. **Phenomenon** (synonyms) - an occurrence, fact, experience, happening, incident, event.
 - 2.3.4. But Christianity is essentially something that **happens** - something that **has** happened, something that **is** happening, something that is **going to** happen.¹
 - 2.3.5. People try to reduce Christianity to **ethical** or **political** teaching, or worse some kind of **religious teaching**.
 - 2.3.5.1. **Confucianism, Buddhism, Islam** is nothing but teachings. They do not claim to be anything else.
 - 2.3.5.2. They deal w/how people **should live, philosophies** that take **religious form**.
 - 2.3.6. Christianity is not to be in this category. Christianity is **unique**. It is **historical**. It is **phenomenal**.
 - 2.3.6.1. It is something that is **done** & then is followed by the teaching that explains what has **happened**.
- 2.4. **The OT was the same way** – Take **Moses** for example. He didn’t sit down & **read** a book. He wasn’t **meditating & ruminating** on what life was about. Nor was he trying to come up with a **philosophy of existence**.
 - 2.4.1. **Nope!** It was in the middle of a most ordinary vocation (shepherd) he was suddenly confronted by something, a phenomenon, a burning bush.
 - 2.4.1.1. **So President Bush** was praying to **God** one day & asked if he could talk to **Moses** being that he had a lot of dealings with the Middle East crisis. God said he’d ask him to see if he wanted to do that. God came back & told him he didn’t want to. President

¹ Martyn Lloyd Jones; Authentic Christianity; pg.226.

bush asked why he didn't want to talk to him. God said the last time he talked to a bush he spent 40 years in the wilderness! 😊

- 2.4.2. Moses in seeing this burning bush said, "I will now turn aside, & see this great sight." (Ex.3:3) He was about to investigate when the voice spoke. This was a meeting with God – a phenomenon!
- 2.5. One becomes a Christian when one is confronted by something that is a phenomenon, something arresting, something shaking, something inexplicable/incomprehensible.
- 2.5.1. It is something that **changes the lives** of men & women.
- 2.5.2. Nobody could **understand** it. No one could put a **stop** to it either!
- 2.5.2.1. The **Jews** tried, the **Romans** tried.
- 2.5.2.2. There were grievous persecutions that forced the church underground, yet they still went on.
- 2.5.2.3. They murdered the **Christians**, they tried to murder all the **leaders**, but "*The blood of the Martyrs was the seed of the church!*"
- 2.5.3. Read the book *England Before & After Wesley* & read of the degradation & vice & sin of the day (early 18th cent). And then after the **revival** how the gin shops closed & life changed throughout England.
- 2.5.3.1. Something happened; a phenomenon took place; a mighty revival.
- 2.5.4. Have you been confronted by something that made you stop & think?
- 2.5.4.1. That's always the 1st step in becoming a Christian.
- 2.5.5. The beggar walked, something happened to him.
- 2.5.5.1. But Peter quickly said you're concentrating on the wrong thing. It's not the miracle that is important, the vital thing is to which it points!
- 2.5.5.2. Like Moses at the bush he was immediately told "**take off your shoes. The place you're standing on is holy ground!**"
- 2.5.5.3. You need to experience God in a way where you hear, **take off your shoes!**
- 2.6. Every active Christian is faced with this dilemma - How do you get the attention on Jesus when you're the one doing the good deed?
- 2.6.1. When you do a good deed for someone how will they know if it's from **you**, or because of what **Jesus** has done **in you**?
- 2.6.2. How can we point it to Jesus w/o it being cheesy?
- 2.6.3. Cheesy = "*No, no, it wasn't me it was Jesus!*"
- 2.6.4. Non-Cheesy = Pray exactly how you should make Him known.
- 2.6.4.1. [Ex: Guy that needed gas I picked up. I had just filled my gas can for mower. He said, "*most people won't stop, but you did!*"

I explained I thought the Lord told me to stop & help him. Oh, are you a Christian...I used to be...]

- 2.7. Peter helped them understand the true power behind the miracle.
- 2.7.1. He explained it was **not** some **inherent power** in himself or John.
- 2.7.2. **Don't look to us, look to the Father!**
- 2.8. **DON'T LOOK TO US; LOOK TO THE FATHER!** (13a)
- 2.9. Here we are face to face with the authentic Christian message!
- 2.10. **Know your audience** – (Ex: me with K-6th grade chapel)
- 2.10.1. Peter knew his audience & thus doesn't start with **Jesus**, but with the **Father!** [**He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob**]
- 2.10.2. Kosovo(Muslim, though nominal) – believers start with, “we also believe in **one God!**” {3 mono-theistic religions: *Judaism; Islam; Christianity*}
- 2.10.3. Jesus must fit into God's big picture!
- 2.11. Sometimes in dealing with the Trinity I think **it's like** taking **3 beautiful colors** of play dough, & we work them so much together until they're but **one color**.
- 2.12. **DON'T LOOK TO US; LOOK TO JESUS!** (13b-16)
- 2.13. Peter doesn't allow an idle curiosity, or simply an intellectual approach, or to be a spectator, but instead they have to consider their condition, that they're under judgment, & realizing it affects their soul & their eternal destiny.
- 2.14. (15) **On one occasion Michelangelo** turned to his fellow artists and said with **frustration in his voice**, "Why do you keep filling gallery after gallery with endless pictures on the **1 theme** of **Christ in weakness, Christ on the cross**, and most of all, **Christ hanging dead?**" he asked. "Why do you concentrate on the passing episode as if it were the last work, as if the curtain dropped down there on disaster and defeat? That dreadful scene lasted only a few hours. But to the **unending eternity Christ is alive; Christ rules and reigns and triumphs!**"
- 2.14.1. Michelangelo was right. Even though the cross is vitally important because of the redemption Jesus accomplished for us there, **we must not emphasize His death to the exclusion of His resurrection victory**. We should think of Him now in His glorified state in heaven.
- 2.15. **Source of blessing** (16) - **His name**. (This is not a magic word)
- 2.15.1. It is not just a *name*, but everything that *the named individual is* and **represents**—his work, personality, power, authority and reputation.
- 2.16. **Channel of blessing** – **Faith in His name**.
- 2.16.1. Man's is simply a channel/conduit linked to the Divine supply line.

- 2.16.2. (www) “Ministry takes place when **divine resources** meet **human needs** through **loving channels** to the Glory of God.”²
- 2.16.3. *So...Reveal the Source; & Be the Channel!*
- 2.17. **Faith** - the confident reliance on God that generates holy actions, as opposed to mere mental acknowledgement of facts and ideas.
- 2.18. **IGNORANCE, BUT NOT INNOCENCE!** (17,18)
- 2.19. You can be ignorant but not innocent.
- 2.19.1. **Example:** 1 of our pastors found this out coming off the 15 freeway at our exit (Cal Oaks, from Tem.) at the end of the off ramp you must turn into the 1st lane & NOT go around the little white plastic poles into the 2nd or 3rd lane. [He was **ignorant** of the law, but not **innocent** because it was a law, & thus received a ticket]
- 2.20. **THINK AGAIN!** (19-21)
- 2.21. Peter knew many of them wanted to get in touch with the power of Jesus that they had seen with their own eyes. (see 4:4)
- 2.22. **Repent** – change one’s mind, think again!
- 2.22.1. Repent of killing the Messiah, even though you may have been ignorant of what you were doing at the time.
- 2.23. **Be converted** – turn to God. (The Greek word is in the **active voice**, implying, as always, “*a very definite move on the part of man towards God*”)
- 2.24. **3-Fold result of repentance:**
- 2.24.1. **[1] Sins blotted out** – They wouldn’t have understood the depth of this yet but there would be no more need for an **annual** day of atonement.
- 2.24.1.1. Can you still *commemorate* the **Day of Atonement** sure, but understand He has taken away **all** our sins!
- 2.24.1.2. **Example:** Every year I pay \$35 for a Fishing License. But if someone offered to pay for a lifetime license (\$575) wouldn’t I be foolish to refuse it?
- 2.24.2. **[2] Times of refreshing.**
- 2.24.2.1. It will come from the presence of Jesus in your life.
- 2.24.2.2. I’m still being refreshed by **the Cross of Christ** each time I learn more about it, or just bask in its simplicity.
- 2.24.3. **[3] Enjoy 2nd Coming of Christ.**

² Warren Wiersbe; On Being a Servant of God; chapter 1.

- 2.25. **A PROPHET LIKE ME!** (22,23)
- 2.26. (22) Was Jesus “a prophet like Moses”? - **Yes, and more.**
- 2.26.1. A prophet speaks **for** God; but Jesus also spoke **as** God.
- 2.26.2. He spoke what the Father gave him to say, as did all the prophets; **but** He and the Father **are one.**
- 2.26.3. Moses **explained** the sacrificial system for atonement; Jesus **was** the final sacrifice for sin.
- 2.27. (23) **Destruction** for all who will not believe.
- 2.28. **ALL THE FAMILIES!** (24,25)
- 2.29. This quote from **Gen.12:3** is the *Great Commission* in its Old Testament version.
- 2.29.1. **Turn to & see notes.**
- 2.29.2. Peter remembered that he was given **power** as promised (from 1:8) not just to **heal** lame beggars, but also to be **effective witnesses** to the uttermost parts of God world.
- 2.30. **TO BLESS YOU!** (26)
- 2.31. **How?** In turning away every one of you from your iniquity.