

“And Peter Remembered the Words of Jesus”

Matt 26:75

Intro. *Sept 11, 2001 began just as any other day.*

A. People awoke for another typical day.

1) Kids for school, adults for work

2) Travelers boarded airplanes in anticipation of reaching their destination.

B. BUT it WASN'T the same old, same old.

1) People watched helplessly as terrorist attacks unfolded.

2) Thousands killed, lives of countless more forever changed.

C. In the midst of it all “God bless America!”

1) People everywhere turning to prayer and trying to remember a God they have forgotten for so long.

2) Will this spiritual awakening in some be short-lived?

3) Will the memory of God be forgotten?

D. Our memory must be healthy.

1) Sometimes our lives depend on it!

a. To be stricken with Alzheimer's is fear of many.

I. *Christians need to remember some things*

A. Look at Peter's example

1) Jesus tried to prepare disciples for what was coming

a. His death -**Matt 16:21-23 (read)**

2) When that night came, He warned they would be scattered

a. **Matt 26:31-32 (read)**

3) Tho Peter was confident, Jesus said he would deny Him.

a. **Matt 26:33-35 (read)**

4) After that, Peter was never the same again

a. **Luke 22:54-62 (read)**

B. Later, Peter wrote to Christians encouraging them to remember what they already knew.

1) **2 Ptr 1:12-15, 3:1-2 (read)**

2) Could be he was haunted by his own failing

a. He understood what happens when Jesus' words are forgotten

b. Perhaps he doesn't want us to repeat his mistakes.

II. *We must remember who we are & what we were saved from*

A. **Rom 5:6-9** reminds us.

1) Because we were sinners, we were destined for wrath.

B. Because we are saved, we are called to live a certain way.

1) **2 Ptr 1:4-10 (read)**

2) When we forget our salvation, heaven's gate closes for us!

C. These qualities are to help us be what we should to the world

1) Salt & light

a. Creating a thirst for God and showing the way to Him.

2) That won't happen when we take our salvation for granted & neglect it.

a. **Heb 2:1-3 (read)**

III. *We must remember who God is & that He is in control.*

- A. He is Creator
- B. He is Master
- C. He is **omnipotent** (all-powerful), **omniscient** (all-knowing), **omnipresent** (present everywhere).
- D. He is also merciful, loving, & patient.
 - 1) *"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."* 2 Pet 3:9
 - 2) Who knew His patience better than Peter?
- E. But someday His patience will end & judgement will come
 - 1) **2 Ptr 3:10-15a (read)**
 - 2) *".. it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes the judgement.."* Heb 9:27

IV. *We must remember the word of God.*

- A. Why?
 - 1) It is proven: *"As for God, His way is blameless; the word of the LORD is tried; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him."* Ps 18:30
"Every word of God is tried.." Prov 30:5
 - 2) It is pure & right: *"The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."* Psa 19:8
 - 3) It is complete truth: **John 17:17**
- B. It is the only way by which we can develop faith.
 - 1) **Rom 10:17**
 - 2) In it we find everything that we need to know about every spiritual thing!
- C. God's word will do one of two things:
 - 1) Convict us of sin and condemn us
 - a. *"Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"* Jer 23:29
 - b. It probes deeper than anyone else could ever go.
 - 1. **Heb 4:12-13 (read)**
 - c. It's a mirror by which we can see ourselves in all of our sinfulness.
 - d. Rejecting it is to be condemned
 - 1. *"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day."* John 12:48
 - 2) Or it will save us, if we let it.
 - a. *"it is the power of God to salvation for everyone.."* Rom 1:16
 - b. *"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* John 8:31-32

Conc. *We are living in the last days.*

- A. It is imperative that we remember the word of the Lord BEFORE we fall and it's too late.
- B. Let us never experience what Peter did.
 - 1) *The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.* Luke 22:61-62
- C. Let us humble ourselves & remember what we were called for!
 - 1) **When the rest of the country forgets to call on God, let us be the ones they see who have not forgotten Him or His word!**