

HE IS GONE – NOW WHAT?

May 14, 2006

Acts 2.1-4, 14

Can you try to imagine how the apostles felt in the days preceding Pentecost? For several years they had been following one of the most exciting figures of history. They were listening to the most insightful teacher of truth who had ever appeared on the face of history. But they had recently experienced his crucifixion. What a sense of despair and defeat that must have been!

But he had risen from the dead and appeared to them, (Acts 1.1-11). What an exhilarating experience that had been! But now he had left them. He had challenged them with what we know of as the Great Commission, (Matthew 28.16-20). He had told them to go to Jerusalem and to wait, (Acts 1.4). I'm sure they didn't quite understand what that meant. But they were waiting. I'm sure as they waited, one terrible truth closed in upon them.

HE WAS GONE! – NOW WHAT?

Peter is surely an example of the spiritual journey of many Christians. Perhaps as we focus on what happened to Peter we will see the principles behind the power which changed his life and can impact ours.

HE HAD FACED HIS OWN INADEQUACY

*“While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him. ‘You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,’ she said. But he denied it. ‘I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,’ he said, and went out into the entryway. When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, ‘This fellow is one of them.’ Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, ‘Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.’ He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, ‘I don’t know this man you’re talking about.’ Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: ‘Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.’ **And he broke down and wept.**”* Mark 14.66-72

“Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. ‘Simon,’ he said to Peter, ‘are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.’” Mark 14.37-38

HIS INADEQUACY IS REPLACED BY CHRIST’S SUFFICIENCY

*“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues **as the Spirit enabled them.**”* Acts 2.1-4

LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT I SAY!

*“Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; **listen carefully to what I say.**’”* Acts 2.14

*“When they saw the **courage** of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that **these men had been with Jesus.**”* Acts 4.14