

Lessons Learned On the Porch

Introduction:

- A. **[Porches are a part of Americana]**
 - a. Memories
 - b. Lachelle's dream home
 - c. My spot today!
- B. **[1-11]**
 - a. Peter & John
 - i. Partners in fishing
 - ii. They prepared the last Passover meal
 - iii. They ran to tomb on Easter
 - iv. They would continue to work together...
 - b. Solomon's Porch
 - i. [PP – PIC] – “Portico of Solomon”
 - ii. At roofed colonnade of Herod's Temple.
 - c. Peter – “From self-centered to selfless”
 - i. “*Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”*–Matt. 26:33
 - ii. IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS
- C. Acts 3:12-26
- D. “Jesus should have our heart, our attention, and our expectation.”
- E. What?
- F. Peter gives us 4 lessons about Jesus from Solomon's Porch.
- I. Lesson #1 – Jesus is a healer.
 - a. Through Jesus the lame man was healed.
 - i. The apostles had nothing to do with it. (12)
 - 1. They weren't to be the focus of attention.
 - 2. This miracle wasn't of their own doing.
 - a. “own power” – they had no ability to do this.
 - b. “godliness”
 - i. KJV – “holiness”
 - ii. They weren't special enough to do this.
 - ii. Jesus made this man rise and walk. (16)
 - 1. Jesus in response to Peter & John's faith made this man whole.
 - a. “whom you see and know”
 - b. They couldn't deny this was truly a miracle!
 - 2. Was it a name or a person who did this?
 - a. When Peter uses the word “name” he is refereeing to so much more.
 - i. Name – Personality or Character
 - ii. It pointed to authority and power.
 - b. This was done by Jesus through faith and not by mere use of a word.

- b. Jesus is still in the business of healing today.
 - i. Through faith people are experiencing healing from Jesus every day.
 - 1. Sometimes it's physical.
 - 2. Sometimes it's emotional.
 - 3. Sometimes it's spiritual.
 - 4. He can heal bodies, marriages, & lost souls – nothing is impossible for Him.
 - 5. **[Swindoll]**
 - ii. However, going around “in the name of Jesus” is not a magic trick!
 - 1. It not about a word, it's about the Lord.
 - 2. Remember the 7 sons of Sceva – Acts 19:11-16
 - 3. It is not a formula that has power it's JESUS!
 - iii. ALSO – Like Peter we must not focus on what we can do, but what God can do through us.

“Jesus heals, The next...”

II. Lesson #2 – Jesus was murdered, but He lives!

- a. Jesus did not die an ordinary death.
 - i. Peter pointed out that they were responsible for Christ's murder. (13-15a)
 - 1. Notice the “you's”:
 - a. “Whom you delivered up and denied” – (13)
 - b. “you denied” – (14)
 - c. “asked for a murder to be granted to you” – (14)
 - 2. They were probably there when all this happened.
 - a. They delivered Jesus before Pilate
 - b. They demanded to have Barabbas freed instead.
 - c. They cried for Jesus to be crucified.
 - ii. They had crucified no ordinary man.
 - 1. Notice the names Peter gives to Jesus in these 3 verses... “Servant Jesus, Holy One, the Just, & Prince of Life”
 - a. Servant Jesus
 - i. “Son” - KJV
 - ii. Isaiah 53 – “The suffering Servant”
 - iii. Messiah
 - b. “Holy One”
 - i. He was of God.
 - ii. Son of God & God the Son
 - c. “the Just”
 - i. He was righteous & blameless
 - ii. He committed no sin.
 - d. “Prince of Life”
 - i. “prince” – “author”

- ii. They saved a murder and killed the Creator.
 - 2. They had killed the Messiah.
- iii. However, God raised Him back to life! (15b)
 - 1. Jesus was resurrected by God.
 - 2. And Peter, John, and the rest of the apostles were witness of this fact!
- b. Today, it is important for us to remember murder of Jesus.
 - i. We must remember His death.
 - 1. We too are responsible for the death of Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Our sins are why Jesus was willingly murdered on a cross.
 - ii. But most importantly we must remember He lives.
 - 1. ***“The resurrection is God’s “Amen!” to Christ’s statement, “It is finished.” – S. Lewis Johnson.***
 - 2. Because He lives, everything about Him is true.
 - a. Who He is – TRUE
 - b. What He said – TRUE
 - c. What He promised – TURE
 - 3. Because He lives we to can have hope that we will live after this life!

“Jesus died, but lives. Next...”

III. Lesson #3 – Jesus is the One the Old Testament spoke about.

- a. Jesus fulfilled 5 important prophecies.
 - i. How he died. (17&18)
 - 1. They had killed Jesus out of ignorance, but God was in control of the situation.
 - 2. There are many passages that foretold Jesus’ death.
 - 3. *“For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.” – Ps. 22:16-18*
 - ii. He is coming back. (20&21)
 - 1. Peter pointed that Jesus is in Heaven waiting to come at the “times of the restoration of all things.”
 - 2. This is a reference of Christ Second Coming.
 - 3. **READ – Is. 11**
 - iii. He is the Prophet to come. (22&23)
 - 1. This is the prophecy of Moses found Deut. 18:15, 18, &19.
 - 2. Jesus is that Prophet, no one else fulfills this.
 - iv. He is the coming King. (24)
 - 1. Peter’s reference to Samuel & the rest of the prophets points to Jesus as the foretold heir to the throne of David.
 - 2. *“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My*

son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever” – 2 Sam. 7:12-16

- v. He is the Blessing of the Abrahamic Covenant. (25)
 - 1. Peter pointed out that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Covenant God made with Abraham.
 - 2. He quotes from Gen. 22:18.
 - 3. Jesus is how all the families of the earth are blessed!
- b. Today we take hope in knowing that Jesus authenticates the Scriptures.
 - i. Jesus reveals the wonder mystery of the inspiration of the Bible.
 - 1. Just think about your Bible:
 - a. It has 66 books
 - b. It has 40 different authors
 - 2. But with all of that it has one main message: *God’s love through Jesus Christ!*
 - 3. **[Jesus cover to cover]**
 - ii. Nowhere else will you find a book that is alive & will point you to real life.

“Jesus & Scripture, Finally...”

- IV. Lesson #4 – Jesus was sent to bless us.
 - a. Jesus is a blessing by turning people away from sin.(26)
 - i. Peter explains how Jesus was the Blessing from Abraham.
 - 1. Jesus turns people away from their iniquities – sins or wickedness.
 - 2. This was and is the role of the Messiah all along.
 - ii. But while Jesus came to the Jews first, the freedom He brings from sin is offered to everyone.
 - b. Today, we to can receive that blessing.
 - i. How? (19a)
 - 1. We must repent.
 - a. “to think differently”
 - b. To do a u-turn in your mind about:
 - i. Yourself.
 - ii. Your sin.
 - iii. Jesus
 - c. More than a feeling, it is a decision.
 - 2. We must be converted.
 - a. “to turn again”
 - b. This means that we exercise saving faith, but turn to Jesus.
 - ii. What happens when we receive this blessing? (19b)
 - 1. Our sins are blotted out.
 - a. Our sins are forgiven or pardoned.
 - b. **[Creditor removing record of debt]**

- c. When we place our trust in Jesus, our sins are totally removed!
- 2. Times of refreshing come.
 - a. In context with vs. 20&21, Peter switches gears and is calling for a national repentance.
 - i. If the nation as a whole repents, in due time the Lord will come.
 - ii. Again a reference to the second coming.
 - b. But there is a spiritual side for us here as well.
 - i. Repentance is painful, we naturally love sin.
 - ii. But God gives us a better way to live.
 - iii. Ultimately we experience a life that is refreshed!

Conclusion

- A. What does Jesus mean to you?
- B. Have you received the greatest blessing of all?