

Hope Through Stewardship

(Pentecost Sunday)

Lesson Text: 1st Peter 4-1:11

Bible Background: 1st Peter 4

Devotional Reading: Luke 16:10-13

Keep in Mind: *“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1st Peter 4-1:10~ KJV)*

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **KNOW** the cost of discipleship; **FEEL** able to recall a time when we relied on God’s power; and **LOOK** for opportunities to serve others.

In Focus

The clarion call of Acts 1:8 is relevant today: *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

Lesson Text

1st Peter 4-1:11 ~NKJV

1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, reveling, banqueting’s, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

6 For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

I. The Lesson

The People, Places and Times

The Day of (Greek-pentekoste) Pentecost. In Jerusalem, 50 days after the Passover Lamb was slain, 120 disciples were gathered in an upper room, waiting on power from on high. Peter was there, and initiated the selection process to replace Judas who betrayed Christ. The requirements were: 1) was with Jesus from the time of John's baptism; 2) a witness of Jesus' resurrection; and 3) having observed His ascension into heaven. Matthias was selected to complete the number of the 12 apostles.

Background: *“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance”* (Acts 2:1, 4). Men from every nation on Earth were in Jerusalem and amazed they understood these foreign men speaking in their own languages. That day, Peter preached a 3,000 souls-saving message. Many years later, Peter became a leader in the Church Council at Jerusalem. He was visited on a rooftop and commanded to minister to a Gentile centurion (Acts 10:1–7), along with many other vital actions in the early church. Peter points his readers to Christ, our example of how to be a servant to all humankind.”

II. In Depth

“1. Christ’s Example (1 Peter 4:1–2) *“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin”* (1 Peter 4:1). If Peter were alive today, he may have worded this verse something like this: “Followers of Christ must put on the mind of Christ, in order not to fulfill the lusts of the flesh. This is not Burger King®; you cannot have it your way.” Peter knew flesh is a rival of the Spirit. To maintain the mind of Christ; we must renew our minds daily.

2. Christ’s Teachings: *Put off the Old, put on the New* (1 Peter 4:3–6) Remember when you began your believer’s walk? We left old friends to be an excellent witness of our precious gift of salvation. To be a positive witness for God, you had to suffer separation from the old lifestyle. The Bible tells us that “evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33). A choice had to be made; maybe you told yourself, “Either I’ll continue in my old sinful ways, or I will change the company I keep and walk in my salvation; sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost.”

Peter urges us to be conscious of the judgment of Christ. As servants of humankind, we must preach this great Gospel for all to hear. The Gospel has the power to turn lives around that are on a collision course with death, damnation, and destruction. Praise God for the power in the blood of Jesus.

3. God’s Teachings: *Be Sober, Watchful, and Prayerful* (1 Peter 4:7–9) Peter admonishes believers to be sober and watchful in prayer. We are admonished, “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus explained to His disciples, when asked about the end times, there would be many signs. Among them are: deceivers of many; nations rising against nations; wars and rumors of wars; famine, pestilence, and earthquakes in many different places (Matthew 24:3–7). This, however, is only the beginning of the end. (1 Peter 4:7).

We can all tell when another person loves us. Even little children know when they are loved. We are to love each other with a fervent love. Just think how much better it is to add energy and authenticity to the love that we share with our fellow Christians. According to Peter, this love will “cover the multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8). Now it may be said, there are no skeletons in your closet, but grace is sufficient for all. Use love to cover another’s faults; you may need that same favor returned to you someday.

4. Christ’s Teachings: *Gifts of Honor* (1st Peter 4:10–11) So often, we think of stewardship and relate it to money or things of material value. Here, Peter applies stewardship to the manifold grace of God. Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of

God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). As we see God’s kingdom with the mind of Christ, everything else tends to fall into place.

Gifts are given according to God’s grace. These godly gifts are to be used to glorify Him and Him alone. One of the problems of walking in the flesh is that flesh has a desire to be satisfied. When we take on our new nature in Christ, that attitude won’t work. As the saying goes, “oil and water don’t mix.” The same applies to this subject: God’s gifts and our flesh don’t mix. We are accountable to God and our fellow persons to be ministers of righteousness, upholding the integrity of our calling in Christ Jesus.

Naturally, Bible scholars see the similarity and cohesion of this passage of Scripture and apostle Paul’s message to the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 12 and other passages. The bottom line is, I need you and you need me. We are all fellow servants of our King. It is tantamount that Jesus Christ receives all the praise and glory from the service we render to Him and one another.”

III. Take Aways

IV. Closing Prayer



Our Read-Ahead for: 21 May 2023

“Hope Through Stewardship”

Monday: Trust God to Provide (**Luke 12:22-28**)

Tuesday: The Unfailing Treasure (**Luke 12:29-34**)

Wednesday: Be Alert and Ready (**Luke 12:35-40**)

Thursday: The Faithful and Prudent Manager (**Luke 12:41-48**)

Friday: The Perfect Gift from Above (**James 1:12-18**)

Saturday: Faithful in Little and Much (**Luke 16:10-13**)

Sunday: Good Steward of God’s Grace (**1st Peter 4:1-11**)