

The Voice of a Rooster?

Scripture: Hebrews 6:1 “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,”

Introduction:

How many of you have been around chickens? When I was a little boy my grandfather had chickens in a little chicken cage behind his work shop.

As the family story goes I was about three years old and we had dropped by for a visit. My grandfather was always out at his workshop doing something, so I headed out there. We visited for a bit and then one of his roosters crowed.

I looked at my grandfather and said what is it. He said that it was a rooster crowing,...to which I said “What that rooster do that for?”

Latter when I was 4-5 years old our neighbor had a big red rooster. This rooster hated me and I can tell you for sure I did nothing to him at all. That sucker wanted to kill me I could see it on his face. Once he tried to flog me and almost succeeded. I hope that rooster meet an untimely death ☺ Anyway I found myself again asking “What that rooster do that for?”

More recently my mom and dad, of Inola Oklahoma, built a chicken pin with the idea of selling eggs under the name Yokahoma Egg Co. ☺ They had several roosters and every time I walked by I was bit nervous considering my past and all. But these crazy birds would crow at any time...it didn't have to be sun up or sun down. So I found myself again asking “What that rooster do that for?”

Transitional Statement:

Today we are going to talk about the struggle of a Christian man and his meeting with a rooster.

Truly the life of a Christian presents many challenges and rough roads. Some Christians fall beneath the load of their lives, and never get up again. But God calls us to mature in Him. God wants us to develop and grow in Him, from insights gained from both failures and successes.

If you know someone who you see as a successful Christian, you should know they weren't born that way. They have embraced a life-style of continued growth. Time and time again they have fallen...but the mark of maturity is the one who learns and gets back up and tries again.

As we think about this let's consider the life of Peter.

Lesson:

I. Peter began his walk with the Lord in strength.

A. Let's think about Peter's beginning steps with Jesus

Matthew 4:18-20

"Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 And He said to them, " Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him."

1. He gave up his way of life....Fisherman
2. He left all that he had.....His job, boat, nets, family, friends and home
3. And He followed Jesus

B. In Matthew 14:25-29, we see Peter's early attempts at faith in Jesus.

1. Often we think of Peter sinking in the water as he walked to Jesus
2. But I am reminded that he got out of the boat at all
3. And that he did take a few steps.
4. And that he did call to the right person (Jesus) for help

C. In Matthew 16:13-16, we see Peter's confession of who Jesus was.

1. Jesus asks, who do people think that I am?
 - a. John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah...or one of the prophets.
2. But, who do you think I am?
 - a. Peter says,... Thou art the Christ the son of the living God.

D. Peter had grown from the day he got out of that boat and followed Jesus

E. Do you remember your baptism?

1. When I was baptized I had a full commitment
2. I was on fire
 - a. Seeking to serve Him
 - b. Seeking to glorify Him
 - c. Just like Peter

II. But, Peter's walk with God included struggles and weaknesses. Let's talk about where these weaknesses lead him.

A. Back to Matthew 14:30, Peter looked away from the Lord and seeing the winds and the waves he lost his focus and began to sink.

1. Spiritual A.D.D. (Attention Deficit Disorder)

B. In Matthew 16:21-22 Jesus was telling His disciples that He would have to suffer and eventually be killed by the elders, chief priests and the scribes.

1. Peter rebuked Him

- a. A true sign of Spiritual weakness is when we rebuke the Lord.
-We think that the Lord is wrong
- b. Rebuking the Lord may be as simply as not listening when He tells us something or as far fetched as thinking that we somehow know more.

2. But, Jesus replied.... “get behind me Satan”

- a. Peter’s mind was on worldly things.
- b. But more than that he had not guarded the gates of his life and Satan was now working through him.

C. Read with me Matthew 17:1-5

“Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. 2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. 4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. 5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, " This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”

1. The first thing we see is Peter question Jesus’ decision to bring them there.

- a. Are you sure Jesus that you have made the right choice here?

2. Then after seeing Jesus transformed, out of the physical, and into the spiritual

- a. Peter asks if he can build three tabernacles...dwellings for:

-Jesus
-Moses
-Elijah

*This is truly amazing to me that anyone would see the most incredible spiritual thing in the world....and Peter responds by volunteering for a construction project.

- b. Peter failed to understand one of the most basics of God’s nature.

-God doesn’t dwell in houses made by human hands Acts 7:48

3. Also, in this text we see that Peter spoke when he should have remained silent.

- a. And God chimes in and reminds him to listen to Jesus

D. In Matthew 18:21 We see Peter asking about the limits of forgiveness

1. How many times do we have to forgive a brother.

- a. Peter's suggestion of 7 times, suggests that he feels there is a limit.
- b. A worldly concept and sometimes a concept among those who call themselves Christians.

E. In Luke 22:24 We find Peter with the other disciples right after the Lord's supper arguing about who among them was the greatest.

F. In Matthew 19:16-26 Jesus has a discussion with the rich young ruler where he instructed him about completeness and how he could have it by giving all his worldly possessions to the poor.

1. Right after this very discussion in Verse 27 Peter asks "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"
 - a. Tell us about what we will get out of this thing.

G. In Matthew 26:31 Jesus says you'll all fall away this night.

1. Verse 33 Peter says....no your wrong I won't fall away
2. In fact Jesus says ...you will deny me three times before morning.
3. In Verse 35 Peter continues.....no your still wrong....I'll die first

H. In Matthew 26:36ff In the garden of Gethsemane

1. Peter falls asleep 3 times after the Lord's instructed him to keep watch

I. In John 18:10 At the arrest of Jesus Peter pulled his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.

1. Peter, was thinking worldly and failed to realize that his battle wasn't against flesh and blood.
 - a. He took matters in his own hands and failed to follow the lead of his savior.

J. Peter's weaknesses would soon be his downfall

III. It was in weakness that Satan came to Peter

A. Luke 22:31 We see that Satan had set Peter in his sights.

1. The text says that Satan demanded to sift Peter like wheat.
2. To which Jesus says in verse 32 that he prayed that his faith would not fail.
3. i.e. God would allow the sifting.
4. So it was up to Peter trust in God to hold strong.

IV. Peter was found to be impure

A. But when Satan shook the sift Peter was found on the grate.....because of impurity

1. After Jesus' arrest we see the beginning treachery of weakness.

- a. Luke 22:54 says that Peter follows at a distance
- b. Half hearted service of God
- c. One foot in the church and the other in the world.
- * What happened to "I'll die first"

2. The deceit of weakness is that it simply stays the same.....but it actually grows.

- a. In Luke 22:55 we find that Jesus was taken to Caiaphas' the high priest's house. Peter had followed and found himself in the Caiaphas' courtyard warming himself with the servants of the high priest.
- b. For such proclaimed boldness.....we see Peter cowering in a crowd.

-Trying to blend in

3. In verses 56-60 we see the fruition of weakness. Here Peter denies 3 times that he didn't know Jesus and once with swearing.

- a. It's a short walk from following God at a distance to warming yourself by the wrong fire.
- b. We might say "oh Peter how could you" but I have found that you don't actually have to speak the words "I don't know you" to say the same thing.

B. Peter was more than weak....he had fallen flat on his spiritual face.

- 1. He had denied the Son of the living God.
- 2. Peter had left the very presence of God.

IV. But God reached out to Peter

A. Through the voice of a rooster verse 60

- 1. Jesus looks at Peter and he is convicted
- 2. He knows that he is wrong

B. It wasn't coincidence that the rooster crowed at his last denial

- 1. It was the providence of God.
- 2. You see God was calling Peter back with the voice of a rooster

C. Many of us are looking for God's providence in our lives?

- 1. But I wonder, how many of us would recognize the voice of God if He were calling?

V. Peter was convicted in his heart

- A. Luke 22:62 said that Peter went out and wept bitterly
- B. Paul tells us in 2 Cor 7:10 that godly sorrow brings about repentance
- C. And it is the broken and contrite heart that God desires ...Psalms 51:17

VII. And Peter stepped up to the plate for change

- A. A few weeks later Peter affirms his love for Jesus three times....the same number in which he had denied him in weakness.
- B. 50 Days latter in Acts 2, Peter boldly proclaimed Christ in the first gospel sermon and opened the doors to the kingdom.
- C. And in Acts 4 we find Peter preaching Jesus in the same courtyard that he had rejected him in.
 - 1. There he told the Sanhedrin *"I can't help from preaching Christ"*
- D. In Acts 5 Peter is rejoicing that he is counted worthy to suffer for the Lord.
- E. In Acts 10 we find Peter risking alienation of the brotherhood at the house of Cornelius being obedient to God at all cost.
- F. In Acts 12 Peter is imprisoned and about to be beheaded
 - 1. There he slumbers in faithful sleep.
 - 2. History tells us that he ended up being crucified, head down, because he confessed and confirmed this same Jesus who he had denied.

Conclusion:

Hopefully with Peter we have learned to embrace our struggles and return home like the prodigal son.

Not to stay in a foreign land wallowing in the muck and mire of this world.

If the rooster crowed at this very hour and Jesus looked right into your eyes....what would He say to you?