

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Five

IN THE GOSPELS: The Apostle Peter and the Apostle John

Burden to Impart:

The special experiences Peter and John had with the Lord caused them to become the two most useful Apostles among the twelve. Over the years they became strong men of God who could bear the Lord's burden and share in His work with Him. They became "pillars" in the church (Gal. 2:9).

Memory Verse: "Jesus takes with Him Peter and James and John, and brings them up into a high mountain by themselves alone. And He was transformed before them" (Mark 9:2).

Facts to Teach:

1. Of the twelve Apostles, three were especially close to the Lord, and were brought into some experiences that the others did not have. These were Peter, James, and John. These experiences caused their testimonies to be extra-ordinary. James' witness for the Lord was so prevailing that he was the first apostle to be sought out by the enemy and martyred (Acts 12:2). Peter and John both lived on for a longer time and were used by God to write some of the books of the New Testament.
2. On one occasion the Lord asked His disciples who they thought He really was. Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" The Lord told Peter that he was blessed, for only God could have revealed that secret to him (Matt. 16:16-18).
3. Then the Lord told Peter that He would give him the keys to His kingdom (Matt. 16:16-19). The Lord entrusted a great responsibility to Peter. He later used these "keys" by preaching the gospel and opening the door of faith for thousands of people to believe in the Lord Jesus and enter His heavenly kingdom (Acts 2:37-41; 10:44-48). He truly became a great "fisher of men" as Jesus had foretold (Matt. 4:19).
4. On another occasion Jesus brought Peter, James, and John apart from the rest of the Apostles to a high mountain. There He revealed Himself to them in all of His glory (Matt. 17:1-9). No other person ever saw His glory like this while He was on earth, only these three. Then He charged them not to tell any one else of the vision until He arose from the dead. This was a special experience He shared only with them.
5. Once, when a young girl had died, the Lord Jesus only allowed Peter, James, and John to accompany Him when He performed the miracle of raising her from the dead (Mark 5:37).
6. Also, before the Lord Jesus went to the cross, He took Peter, James, and John aside with Him and spoke to them alone the deepest things on His heart concerning His sorrow (Matt. 26:36-38). It seems that they had a deeper fellowship with the Lord than the rest of the Apostles.