



Harmonychurch.life

Each month we have a special memory verse and Life App. All of our stories revolve around those.
This month's Memory Verse is:

**"Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power."
*Ephesians 6:10***

Last month & this month's life app is

**Conviction
"Standing up for what's right even when others don't."**

Our basic truth, that **never** changes is that

"I can trust God no matter what."

Each week, we have a different bottom line that goes with our story.

W1) **"If you want to stand for what's right, listen to someone who listens to God."**

W2) **"You can stand for what's right, even when it's not popular."**

W3) **"Get in the habit of standing up for what is right."**

This week's bottom line is;

"We can stand for what's right because Jesus is alive."

Our story for this week is 'Peter, John & the Sanhedrin'. (Acts 3:1-9 4:1-21)

** We have an amazing story from the Bible to close out our series on conviction. Our story today is from the book of Acts.

Two of Jesus disciples, Peter and John, were standing in the council chamber in front of all of the religious leaders. And the leaders did not look happy with them. They were definitely in trouble... 😞

"By what power did you do this? And through whose name?" the council questioned them. You see, the council members were mad because of something that had happened the day before. Let's back up and see what that was.

Peter and John had gone to the Temple one afternoon. Outside the gate they saw a man begging.

This man begged at the entrance to the Temple every day because he desperately needed help. He couldn't walk.

And he'd been unable to walk ever since he'd been born which meant he couldn't work or do anything really. He

had to be carried to his spot outside the Temple every day in hope that people would be kind and give him

enough money to buy food and anything else he needed. This day, he saw Peter and John entering the Temple.

The beggar said "Excuse me, sirs, may I have some money, please?"

But Peter & John knew this man needed something else. Peter told the man to look at them. When he did, Peter replied “I don’t have any silver or gold. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk.” (Acts 3:6)

A miracle happened that day. Peter & John reached down to help the man up and this poor beggar was now able to walk. He did even more than that. He jumped and laughed and praised God as they all walked into the Temple. When the people at the Temple realized that this man who was praising God was the same beggar who couldn’t walk a few moments ago, they were amazed! This man had not walked in his whole life!

While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running toward them. Well, Peter saw an opportunity. With all of these people gathered around, he began telling them about Jesus and explained how this man had been healed because of Him. Listen to what Peter said in Acts 3:16;

“This man whom you see and know was made strong because of faith in Jesus’ name.

Faith in Jesus has healed him completely. You can see it with your own eyes.”

Peter went on to explain how Jesus had been crucified. Jesus had been killed but had risen and was alive again. He told the people that all of this had happened so that they could be forgiven. This was great news, but not everyone was happy about it.

Peter and John were confronted and arrested by some of the Temple priests and guards. They were taken away and thrown into jail where they spent the night. In the morning, they were brought before the religious leaders to answer their questions. And that brings us right back to where we first started this story.

Peter and John were in trouble for teaching about Jesus. They could have apologized and promised that they’d never talk about Jesus again. They could have begged for mercy. But that wouldn’t have been right. Here’s what happened instead.

The Bible says that Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and began boldly preaching to the religious leaders. And he once again explained that the beggar had been healed through the power of the name of Jesus. He ended by saying this about Jesus...

“You can’t be saved by believing in anyone else.

God has given us no other name under heaven that will save us.”

(Acts 4:12)

The council members were surprised at Peter and John’s boldness. They thought they were just ordinary men with no special training. So, they decided to send them away while they discussed what to do. After Peter & John were taken away the council discussed their options. (Acts 4 verses 16-17)

“What can we do with these men? “

“Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle.’

“We can’t say it didn’t happen, but have to stop this.”

“It must not spread any further among the people. We have to warn these men.”

“They must never speak to anyone in Jesus’ name again”

Peter and John were brought back before the religious leaders where they were given this order. “We have reached a decision. You two must never ever, ever, ever, ever, speak or preach or teach in the name of Jesus Christ ever again! It is forbidden!

“DO WHAT!!!???”

Peter and John better than that. They knew that the right thing to do was to keep on preaching and teaching about Jesus. They had conviction, and even though the council was trying to threaten them, they took a stand for what was right. Here’s what they said back to the council.

“Which is right in God’s eyes; to listen to you, or to Him? You be the judges!

As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

(Acts 4:19-20)

The council was quite angry and even threatened Peter and John some more. But how could they punish them, all the people had seen what happened and were now praising God for the beggar that had been healed. So, they had to let them go.

Peter & John could have been beaten and sentenced to stay in jail for many months or even years. It was possible that they could have even been killed for teaching others about Jesus. But no matter what could have happened to them, they still chose to do what was right. They had incredible conviction.

They boldly kept on preaching and teaching others about Jesus. They talked about Jesus’ love for us. They talked about how Jesus laid down His life to take the punishment for our sins. They also talked about how Jesus is alive again and how we can be forgiven because of His sacrifice for us. And knowing those things, is what helped them to have conviction, and it helps us have conviction, too.

That’s why our Bottom Line for today is;

“We can stand for what’s right because Jesus is alive!”

If you are a Christian, if you have asked Jesus to come into your heart and forgive you of your sins, you have that same power living inside of you. You can stand for what’s right because of Jesus! As followers of Jesus, we can have conviction because Jesus is alive and He gives us everything we need. Through His Holy Spirit, He helps us to know what is right and to have the courage to stand up for it.

Let’s pray and thank Him for that.

PRAY

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Thank You for Your forgiveness. Please help those here who have never asked for Your forgiveness to have the courage to do so. Thank You for loving us and sending us Your Holy Spirit to help us live lives of conviction. We love You, and it’s in Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”