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WHERE ARE YOU

APRIL 2021

Read today's Scripture text with me, *"And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself"* (John 18:18). Now please look with me at **John 21:9**, *"As soon then as they were come to the land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread."*

Some weeks ago while re-reading the Book of John, I stumbled upon these two distinct passages of Scripture and put them together. I was able to discern the subtlety of Satan coupled with his manipulation as he seeks to devour every child of God.

Jesus had previously warned the apostle Peter how Satan would literally seek to destroy his life: *"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift (to separate or scatter) you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthened thy brethren. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death"* (Luke 22:31-33).

What we witness is a spirit of certitude and one of seeming stubbornness by the apostle Peter as he nearly rebukes the prophetic declaration by Christ when he declares, *I am willing to go to prison or to even die for your name's sake.* We are warned, *"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall"* (Proverb 16:18).

As children of God, it is very easy to succumb to the pressures placed upon our flesh and humanity. Truthfully, it is always easier to live

WARMING YOUR HEART?

and walk in the flesh than be led by the Holy Spirit. We never know what a day may bring: therefore, as believers, we would be better served to never speak presumptuously: *"Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth"* (Proverbs 27:1).

As the day of Christ's crucifixion was drawing nigh, everything was becoming skewed and chaotic: thus Peter lost his way. You might say Peter was half in and half out at this particular time of his life. However, the prayers of Christ Jesus established Peter's path and he ultimately returned to Christ and became a great pentecostal preacher in the end.

Without a doubt, all Hell was raging to place Christ upon a cross and crucify Him. The snares and temptations of this world had an evil grip upon the apostle Peter. Peter, filled with fear, followed Christ at a distance for the sake of not suffering the same fate as Christ.

The world had made their own *fire of coals* to warm themselves and, regrettably, Peter stood with them. Peter became unequally yoked when warming himself with their fire. We read, *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"* (2 Corinthians 6:14). The key word in this passage is *communion*.

As believers we should be careful of those with whom we abide concerning our community and those with whom we have union. It was while embracing the fire of

coals made by the world that Peter ultimately broke down and denied our Lord.

We witness the carnal nature of the apostle Peter when he took his sword and cut off the right the ear of Malchus, the servant of the high priest. I believe wholeheartedly, if the apostle Peter would have had a handgun, he would have shot Malchus.

Peter aggressively goes from pontificating he will go to prison or even die for Christ to cutting off the ear of Malchus the high priest's servant to denying Christ repeatedly.

Never underestimate the power of your flesh and how it can suddenly drive you away from Christ our Lord. The powers of Hell were unleashed as never before during the time of the crucifixion.

Presently, America is being filled with evil, adulterous, lecherous, and wayward leadership. As children of God, if we do not remain focused, we too can easily get off track.

Even though Peter was found warming himself at the *fire of coals* made by Satan and his minions, a predetermined event would transpire between Calvary and the next time the apostle Peter encounters a *fire of coals*. This glorious event is the resurrection of Christ our Lord.

Mary Magdalene was from Magdala, an ancient city near the shores of the Sea of Galilee. What a divine encounter she would experience when visiting the empty tomb of Christ our Lord:

"But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping; and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God” (John 20:11-17).

The Son of the living God was now raised from the dead. However, He had unfinished business with His disciples.

After the resurrection, some of the disciples decided to go fishing. While they were fishing, Christ appears on the shore of Galilee having prepared fish and bread: *“As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread” (John 21:9).*

At this *fire of coals*, Peter would have a divine encounter. Christ pressed Peter concerning his love for Him. Jesus nullified Peter’s three denials by questioning him three times concerning his love. Thus Christ tells Peter, if you really love

me, *feed my sheep!* The Greek word for “feed”, *poimaino*, in *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* means: *to feed, to tend a flock*. In context, it means: *to provide God’s people with green pastures by preaching His most holy Word*. This is how you can tell the true servants of God; because they provide green pasture for the people of God.

In this month of April, we are celebrating Resurrection Sunday by bringing you this newsletter: *Where Are You Warming Your Heart?* Our hearts can only be warmed by abiding in the presence of the risen Savior.

History records the apostle Peter demanded to be crucified upside down because he did not feel worthy to be crucified like our Lord. That is a man who had a divine encounter with Christ following the resurrection and his baptism in the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost.

The apostle Peter no longer cowers but, instead, he is now bold, fearless, and without timidity.

Like many of you, I still trust God for justice in America, along with a powerful move of the Holy Spirit in the coming days. Don’t underestimate Satan and his evil attempts to keep revival from happening. Now is the time in which each of us must examine our own life and make sure we are embracing the proper faith so we might finish our course with joy.

In recent weeks and months, many have fallen away because they placed their faith in men and not in the God of Abraham. In the end, when the Antichrist is revealed, he will perform many signs, miracles, and lying wonders so as to deceive the masses. Do not become enamored with signs and wonders but seek Christ instead.

More than ever I am determined to fervently pray and spend increased time in His holy Word. As the true Church and body of Christ we cannot afford to be misled in the

coming days. Make no mistake about it, our faith will be tried!

I am sad to report the modern church is by no means prepared for the coming trials and temptations. An evil spirit has engulfed this nation and at the top of its list is the destruction of God’s people and His Word. But, because Jesus rose triumphantly on the third day, we must never lose hope or faith in Christ our Lord.

The Bible says, *“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations (or trials); Knowing this, that the trying (or testing) of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect (or complete) and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4)*. It is my prayer each of you will finish in such a way that you will *want nothing* whatsoever.

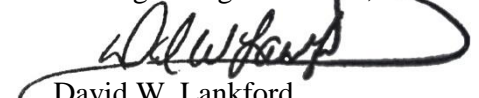
Please continue to pray for our gatherings. If our governor will lift the mask mandate, we would like to have a meeting in Hickory sometime in September or October of this year.

Please do not forget our TV ministry now on CTN. We can be found on DIRECTV, channel 376, and on DISH Network, channel 267, each Tuesday night at 10 PM ET, and every Saturday evening at 3 PM ET.

We truly pray God will use this ministry to touch tens of thousands of souls before Christ returns in His power to possess the earth and set up His Millennial Kingdom.

Thank you so very much for your continued love, prayers, and financial support. Without your partnership, dear friend, this would all be impossible; but with God and you, all things are possible to them that believe.

Serving Along Your Side,


David W. Lankford
Pastor / Evangelist