

The Attraction of Hope

13 - 1 Peter
Sunday, 18 Nov 2012

Text: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Intro: Over the last several messages Peter has been teaching us how to live as fishers of men. The main thing he has been emphasizing is that our lives (the way we live) is the greatest witness. Our lives and relationships should reflect Christ and his cross. Now, he takes us a step further: actually telling people the good news of Jesus. (At first, this passage in my mind did not click, but now it does)

1) Do not fear the intimidation or trouble people bring on you. (1 Pet. 3:14)

- Peter is teaching us that if we live to do **good** people will generally respect us. But, there are always those who get offended by the name of Jesus. *How do we handle this?*
- Peter quotes a **Isaiah 8:12**
 - Peter does not just **randomly** pick a verse on fear, he **carefully** hand choses this one based on the context.
 - The Rabbis had a technique of quoting the **part** to refer to the **whole**.
 - What's the **context**?
 - Isaiah 7-8: The Arameans (King Rezin) and Northern (Pekah) Israel joined together in order to fight against Jerusalem. "the hearts of Ahaz [king of Judah] and his people were **shaken**, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind" (7:2). The tribes of Judah are outnumbered!
 - Promises: "Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart...If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all...Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel..." (cf. 2 Kings 16:7-9)
 - Even though they were overpowered and outnumbered—even though the Arameans were more impressive—they were not to **fear**. They were called to **fear God** and live in **hope** (Isa. 8:11ff)
 - We live as strangers and foreigners in a **hostile world** where in the natural we are **outnumbered** and **overpowered**. But in the Spirit, we are **not** outnumbered and overpowered.
- How do we keep from **fear and intimidation**?
 - By **sanctifying** Christ as **Lord** in your heart. The powers to be and intimidators are not Lord, **JESUS is**.
 - Through **HOPE**
- **Trouble will come Luke 12:49ff**. Yet, we need to pray & bless as peacemakers. And know that if "God is for us who can be against us."

2) Live in a state of readiness to share your faith (1 Pet. 3:15)

- Remember, Peter at **Pentecost** (Acts 2). He was prepared. He began to preach to the crowd that had gathered.
- How did he **prepare**? Through repentance after denying Christ, waiting on God, prayer, discipleship by Jesus prepared him
- The purpose of our Bible School is to prepare people. The new cards.
- *Hetoimos* - pertaining to **a state of readiness**
 - Arranged, prepared, ie. arranging or cleaning a room, preparing a feast.
- We **sanctify** Christ as Lord through **preparation**
- Have you **prepared** your **testimony**?
 - **Anna's example** of this week with her pass it on card.
- **Get ready daily** by spending time in God's Word and sitting at Jesus' feet.
- Preparation is the key to effective evangelism. Heart preparation.
- **HOPE** (confident expectation) keeps us **prepared** (you're expecting). A life of **HOPE** also **attracts** people. **They start asking questions.**
- The world has **false hope**. We have a **living** and **eternal** hope: **1 Peter 1:3-5**
 - Depression is a loss of hope.

3) Sharing Jesus in the right spirit is key to effective evangelism (1 Pet. 3:16)

- **Gentleness** and **Respect** - **the cross** is our greatest example of that. The cross saves, not aggression.
- Zeal can get us into trouble. With fire we also need fruit. Zeal can get us moving but it's not the destination. Spiritual life comes from fruit.
- **Noah** keeps the right spirit in **persecution**. He's Peter's **role model** (**Gen. 6:1-6**; cf. 2 Pet. 2:5)
- Gentleness, *prautes* - gentleness, meekness, consideration, humility. **Friendly** or mild (classical Greek). It's a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)
 - Aggression and violence are not a part of evangelism.
 - Arminianism vs Calvinism. When we think evangelism depends more on us than God, we become forceful.
- **Respect** - no matter who they are or what sin they are wrapped up in.

4) Patience is essential to fishing for men. Noah is a great example of this patience (1 Pet. 3:18-22)

- "As it was in the days of Noah..." (Matt. 24:36-41)
 - Noah was a foreigner and stranger
 - Noah was persecuted
 - Noah lived in faith & hope despite what he saw
 - Noah was courageous
- Noah. Patience. Baptism. Ascension as Lord.
- This baptism that saves us is **Christ's baptism** on the **cross**.
 - It is Christ baptism on the cross that saves us. Our baptism is a public participation in the cross. Our flesh is put to death so that like Noah we can have a new beginning.

Conclusion: A life of hope attracts people to Jesus. This hope leads to preparation, patience and sharing our faith in the right spirit. Consequently, we will be effective fishers of men.