

Fishers of Men

Testimony Of Scott Jones

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, **THAT THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS.**" Acts 4:13

"His college was a dungeon, his library the Bible, and he came forth with gigantic powers to grapple with the prince of darkness. No human learning could have so fitted him for this terrible and mysterious warfare." George Offor, speaking about John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding To The Chief Of Sinners*

I had never read the Bible before, and one morning I picked up a Bible that happened to be sitting on the desk beside my bed. I began to read the book of Matthew. After getting past the begats, I came to verse 18 which said, *"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise."* I was intrigued after reading the first chapter, so I continued on to the second, then the third, and finally the fourth. Well, at this point I was a captive audience. I wanted to pursue the story further, so on I went into the following chapters.

Quite simply, I was astounded by what I'd read after I had finished the seventh chapter. In fact, I can say without hesitation that nobody who heard Jesus' voice that day drank in his words so intensely as I did that morning as I read them. Nobody on that mountain within earshot of the Lord's preaching was more moved by his words that day than I was that morning as I took them in. I quite literally marveled at what I'd heard. So I continued reading.

Every word of every chapter was alive. Every syllable resonated within my soul. The greatest story ever told was being told to me personally that morning. To me specifically. One on one. I finally came to chapter 14, where Jesus came walking upon the water, and as the disciples were terrified, he called out, *"Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."* This was almost too much for me. This person, Jesus Christ, was suddenly for me the answer to the mystery of life. The mystery of life wasn't wrapped up in a continuum of truths; rather, the mystery of life was a person. In fact, that person for me was truth itself. For me, at that moment, Jesus Christ was the embodiment of truth. Every question, every longing I'd ever had was at this moment answered in him.

When I finished the chapter I laid the Bible on my lap and looked up to Heaven and I said, *"Jesus, man, I know you are the truth. I know it. I know you are the truth, Lord Jesus. And I would love to live the way you say, but there is no way I can. But Jesus, Lord, I know you are the truth."*

Suddenly, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory, introduced himself to me. The Jesus who was *"up there"* was suddenly inside me, speaking to me, assuring me, communing with me. I was hearing his voice, as he promised in John 10.

Also in that instant, I was physically blinded for a brief moment; not from an outside flash of light, but by a light that came from within me, a light brighter and whiter than any *"fuller on earth can white them."* I literally could not see for a few brief moments, as when you stare into the bright glare of a camera's flash and it takes a moment for your vision to clear.

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I was suddenly a new creature in Christ Jesus, and Oh! How precious his voice and his presence were, and how marvelously was the scripture fulfilled—

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" *Ephesians 2:1-8*

The Lord Jesus Christ has been with me ever since, and I have continued to be led by him and to hear his voice, as he promised, for the promises of Jesus Christ never fail. In spite of my imperfections and many transgressions, Jesus remains faithful to his own and cleanses his own with *his* own blood, as it is written, "he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." *2 Timothy 2:13*

This promise is to all who call upon the Lord Jesus Christ in truth.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." *John 6:37*