

LOST AND FOUND

April 4, 2010
Easter Sunday
Celebration & Elevation Service

Pastor David Mitchell

People in the Lost to Found - John 21

The Apostle Peter represents many people who move from Lost to Found.

What makes someone like Peter feel lost before Jesus was resurrected?

- He had goals, plans, desires and expectations that were not fulfilled. Matthew 16:17-19
Jesus said, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven;"
- He had a relationship that failed and was powerless to heal it. Luke 22:31-34
"Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" And He (Jesus) said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."
- He made a terrible decision which caused great pain. Luke 22:54-65
But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him..." The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

But, Peter, like us, found a new life in the resurrected Christ. John 21

- Jesus is present, seeking us, even if we do not see Him. John 21:1-4
But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. vs. 4
- Jesus is powerful, seeking to strengthen us in our weakness. John 21:5-7
And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.
- Jesus will restore us with His new purpose regardless of our past failures. John 21:15-17
And he (Peter) said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."

Peter was so powerfully changed by Christ, he preached the following fact about Jesus:

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

The Apostle Paul said, *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.* II Corinthians 5:17.

Has Christ found you and made all things new in your life?

Digging Deeper

Jesus came into this world for one reason as He stated in Luke 19:10 ***“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”***

Peter was one man who was lost and now found. Have you been “found” by the resurrected living Christ who seeks to save you now?

Peter was amazingly renewed and restored after he so painfully failed and denied Christ at His most difficult moment. Even after he was warned by Jesus, Peter still failed. Christ wants to warn all of us that we can and will fail. But, His love and grace are constantly calling us back to Himself.

I read about an Unitarian minister, Marilyn Sewell, who interviewed noted atheist Christopher Hitchens, in Portland, Oregon. Here is a transcript of how that went:

Marilyn Sewell: *The religion you cite in your book is generally the fundamentalist faith of various kinds. I'm a liberal Christian, and I don't take the stories from the Scripture literally. I don't believe in the doctrine of atonement (that Jesus died for our sins, for example). Do you make any distinction between fundamentalist faith and liberal religion?*

Christopher Hitchens: *I would say that if you don't believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ and Messiah, and that he rose again from the dead and by his sacrifice our sins are forgiven, you're really not in any meaningful sense a Christian.*

Sewell wanted no part of that discussion so her next words are, *“Let me go someplace else.”* Even an atheist knows what it means to be a real Christian.

Peter also was so dramatically changed and had such great boldness, that his preaching brought thousands to salvation in Jesus Christ. It was all based on his new experience with the resurrected Jesus Christ.

In Acts 2:32, 33 Peter's first hand witness of the resurrected Jesus gave him new boldness when he said... ***“This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. “Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.***

Then later in Acts 3:18, 19, he calls us all to real repentance of our sins for salvation...***“But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,”***

Do you believe in that Christ died on the cross to make payment for your sins? Do you believe that He rose from the dead and now offers you that same new resurrected life? Will you trust in Jesus today and repent of your sins to receive His gracious forgiveness?

