

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

November 15, 2009

“They Had Been With Jesus”

Greg Litmer

In Acts 3 we read of an event that took place not long after the church had been established. As Peter and John entered the temple, they encountered a forty-year-old man who had been lame from birth, and he requested charity from them. Verses 6-8 tell us what happened: **“Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have I give thee: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.”**

Going into the temple, Peter and John boldly proclaimed the gospel of Jesus, attributing the miracle to Him, convicting the people of His murder, and declaring that God had raised Him from the dead. They asserted that all of this had been foretold by the prophets. Their words did not fall on deaf ears, and not everyone who heard them that day received their words gladly. Certain leaders of the Jews had them arrested and placed in hold until the next day when they were brought before the Sanhedrin.

Before the most powerful men in the Jewish nation, Peter proclaimed that the miracle had been performed by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom, even though they were guilty of crucifying Him, God had raised from the dead. Notice the reaction of the Sanhedrin. Acts 4:13 says, **“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”**

There was something about Peter and John that was different, something about them that puzzled the Sanhedrin, something more than they were able to discern. We are even told that they marveled at the boldness of Peter and John, whom they perceived to be ignorant and unlearned men. They certainly had not studied in any of the great rabbinical schools. But the verb that is translated “took knowledge” is an imperfect tense verb, which probably doesn’t mean much to you and I except in this way--it means that one by one the rulers began to realize the reason for their boldness; they had been with Jesus. What a wonderful thing to have said about them! They had been with Jesus.

Christians ought always remember that we are being watched. The world does “take knowledge” of what we say and what we do. The question is--when they do, what do they see? Do they see men and women of great moral courage who will stick to the truth with an

unwavering steadfastness of principle, as the Lord did? To be a Christian takes courage and it always has. In our society it takes courage to stand for the Lord's standard of right--to stand opposed to gambling, drinking of alcoholic beverages, mixed swimming, abortion, and on and on we could go. It takes courage to stand up and speak for the Lord no matter how offensive what the Lord had to say might be to those listening. When these kinds of subjects come up at work, school, the grocery store, or wherever, will those around us be able to tell that we have been with Jesus?

In Need of Prayers	Information
<p>Sharon Tirey continues her cancer treatments.</p> <p>Taylor Osterling is home and currently stable. There will be ongoing treatments. The family is grateful for our continued prayers.</p> <p>Lilly Fitzwater (Bill Morelan's mother) is probably not going to be able to leave the care facility.</p> <p>Don Bowman has torn his calf.</p> <p>Jim Parson has damaged a tendon in his left arm.</p> <p>Amanda and Weston Chandler are doing great! Jackie and Jacob are also doing very well.</p> <p>Michelle Oxendine (friend of Jim Edwards) is in the late stages of ovarian cancer.</p> <p>David Day (Bobbie Atkisson's grandson) has been deployed to Iraq. His wife will follow in December.</p> <p>My mother (Vicky Litmer) is having a procedure done on her heart to fix a problem this Wednesday.</p>	<p>Remember Ron Catchen, Chuck McDavitt, and David Blakeman.</p> <p>Note that there are several meetings taking place in the area. Invitations have been posted on the bulletin board in the back. I was able to count Christians from at least nine congregations that came out to support our meeting and hear the gospel preached. Let's encourage and support them just as they did for us as we have opportunity.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">University Height Church of Christ 445 Columbia Avenue Lexington, Ky 40508 859-255-6257 www.uheightschurch.com</p>