



DESIRE

LESSON FIVE: TESTIMONY

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As a young adult, I fell for almost everything the professors at my college taught. I mean they were learned men and women and I was not. They had many initials after their names, and I had yet to complete my first college degree. I imagine I was impressed with their confidence and yet, I was a lost person unable to contrast what I was hearing with the Truth. Eventually, I graduated from college with a degree in science and you can assume correctly what I placed my foundation on, shifting sand. Yet, the theory of evolution never really stuck with me. To me, there were enough imperfections in the "science" of the theory that I just could not become a complete adherent to the theory. One day I gathered the resolve to ask my questions during class about the "imperfect science" of the theory of evolution. My questions were met with ridicule and I was mocked for it. When I tried to use what the Bible says about creation, my professor actually laughed at me. I remember leaving class and walking across the campus in a pit of despair and a serious wrestling of the mind. I wondered how I could move forward in the field of science with serious doubt about the theory of evolution, the foundation of secular biology.

At this time of my life there weren't many Creationist Scientists who were being published, and for those who were being published, I didn't know about them. They too report they received ridicule and mockery for their findings that aligned with the Holy Bible. When interviewed, one Creationist scientist stated they realized that by publishing their biblically aligned science findings, they risked their reputation and all they had gained professionally. Yet, they remained faithful to God, stepped out in faith, and stood on His firm foundation.

Jesus alone is the Rock.

You may hear or have heard that Jesus lifted up Peter as being the rock on which Jesus would build His church upon, but did you know that the name Peter means little stone in Greek? What Jesus was referring to in Matthew 16:16-19 is He will build His church upon Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, not on Peter himself.

Have you ever compared yourself to Peter? If not, let me tell you it's an easy comparison. Believe it or not, we are very similar to Peter. Peter was a businessman and worked in commercial fishing and was called out of fishing to follow Jesus. Peter had a temper and acted rashly. In other words, if you found yourself in a fight, Peter is who you wanted next to you. Peter also denied Jesus three times. Read that again, Peter. Denied. Jesus. Three. Times. and Jesus forewarned Peter he would do so. Of course, Peter denied he would do that, too. So, it's easy to see Peter is a sinner just like you and me. Yet, he had the benefit of living with Jesus and witnessing His miracles firsthand, and still he made mistakes just like you and me. So, ask yourself this question, is Peter who you want to place your faith in to ensure your eternity? Think about it from this angle, if you do want to place your eternity into Peter's hands, what would Peter say to you? I think he would point us to Jesus, the Christ and Son of the Living God and not to himself.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word *testimony* as: a solemn declaration usually made orally by a witness under oath in response to interrogation by a lawyer or authorized public official, a firsthand authentication of a fact: EVIDENCE, an outward sign, an open acknowledgment, a public profession of religious experience.

Are you struggling to make Jesus your Savior and LORD of your life? If so, what do you think is holding you back? If it is a past sin, remember what Psalm 51:7 tells us: *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.* If you have confessed and repented of past sins, but are still troubled by them, Psalm 103:12 reminds us that: *As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.* What Psalm 103:12 is saying is Jesus has removed the shackles, but if you are continually reminded of past sins you have confessed it's because you have chosen to keep the shackles on. Shake them off and run into the arms of your Savior. He's waiting for you.

Regardless of your background, Jesus is waiting for you to choose Him. If you've never prayed the Sinner's Prayer, please don't delay and accept Jesus as your LORD and Savior right now. Then go and tell the others.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name. Amen.

YOUR TURN: Fold a sheet of paper into four sections horizontally. Read the following Scripture passages and write down how Jesus explains that He alone is the Rock in section 1. After reading the Scripture passages, create a list of family and friends who need to hear about Jesus in section 2. Then create a plan of when you will tell them in section 3. In section 4 record their questions, and when they have accepted Jesus.

Matthew 16:16-19

1 Corinthians 10:4

1 Peter 2:4-5

Psalm 118:22

Isaiah 8:14

1 Corinthians 3:11

Ephesians 2:20

Matthew 16:15

John 10:11

Matthew 7:24-29