

New *Every* Morning

Tom Stephens

“But Go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.” Mark 16:7

Mary Magdalene, whom Jesus had previously cast out demons, and the two other women with her that day were very frightened when they entered the open tomb of the Lord to find a young man sitting in the sepulcher dressed in a long white robe.

The young man said, “Don’t be afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him...But go, tell his disciples, and Peter that he is going before you into Galilee.”

Seems we always miss the important things the first time around..and this one was. It’s there, in plain sight. Fact is, I missed it for the past “many” years.

Look at it one more time.

“But go, tell his disciples, *and Peter* that he is going before you into Galilee.”

“Be sure to tell Peter that he’s still with us. Tell him he’s not under condemnation, that one mistake doesn’t take him to prison.”

Think of it. Jesus cautioned the angel as He left the tomb, “Remember, tell them about Peter...that I have forgiven him. I have seen his heart.”

Peter *must* know! Even the angels in heaven are in ecstasy, awaiting Peter’s reaction to the good news! They wanted Peter to know that it was not all over for him. The message came loud and clear from the Throne Room of the Almighty, for all heaven was cheering for him!

Just days earlier, Luke recorded when Peter *went out and wept bitterly*. He had denied his Lord. Not once, but *three times*. Peter had felt lower that night than a snake in a hole.

There could be no consolation, at least not until he would face his Master anew. The guilt seemed to crush him to the ground! Repentance from the heart should never, no *never* be so demeaning, so incomplete! That night, Peter’s soul felt a crushing blow.

But Peter had a second chance. And so do you and I.

I can’t help but believe that when Peter go to this point, all the rivers of his soul rushed out from the depths of his belly, and the tears of joy swept him graciously before the Throne of God. One minute Peter felt lower than a snake in the grass, and the next he was weeping for joy!

John records that the next time Peter saw Jesus, he was so excited that he barely got his cloak around him before he cast himself into the cold Sea of Galilee and swam up to the shore where Jesus was warming Himself around a campfire. It was enough for this newly commissioned disciple to become one on the greatest Apostles who ever lived on God’s green earth. It was enough for him to carry the gospel of peace and love all the way to Rome, where they killed him. Peter was crucified upside down, by his own choice. He felt he was not worthy to be killed the same way his Savior was.

Seldom do you find a person who will give you a second chance—much less Someone who will give you a second chance *every day*. Like Peter, we also can find *both*. This was enough.