

No Testimony Without A Test

Jamal Colson

Have you ever thought that you were in a position to testify about our Lord and Savior and to your surprise the opportunity or situation didn't go as well as you would have liked? Have you ever thought you were growing in the Lord and to your surprise you found you hadn't grown as much as you thought, based on your response to a particular situation? You are not alone! Peter had a similar experience in *Matthew 26 (NIV)*:

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³¹ Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ³² But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." ³³ Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." ³⁴ "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." ³⁵ But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

First, Jesus predicts Peter's denial and later in *Matthew 26* we read of the events that follow:

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. ⁷¹ Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" ⁷³ After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away." ⁷⁴ Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Clearly Peter wasn't ready to share his testimony of Jesus. It was unfortunate that Peter disowned Jesus three times. The bible states in *1 Samuel 16:7*, "Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart." By outward appearances, Peter failed the test! God could have decided to end his use of Peter to share the Lord's testimony. However, **Peter didn't give up and neither should we!** Praise be to the Lord that he uses Heavenly wisdom (and not worldly wisdom) spoken of in *James 3:17* "...but the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." God saw fit to use Peter later on, on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:36-41 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." ³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save you from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

God did not give up on Peter, even though he failed three tests. Because of God's unfailing love, Peter didn't give up on God even though he failed three tests. God used him to give a powerful testimony that led 3,000 people to repentance and baptism. Praise God!! Let us encourage one another not to give up (*Hebrews 3:13*), **not only** when we face trials, but even when we fail tests! Instead, remember the lesson of Peter who learned from his tests that led him to his testimony.

Wise Decisions
Kevin Booker

There are decisions that we need to make every day of our lives. Some of those decisions have minor consequences, like what you decide to wear or what you may decide to eat for lunch. There are some decisions, however, that need a lot of wisdom and discernment to make because the consequences can be major and long lasting, such as where we decide to work or who we marry or where we decide to live.

Let’s look at how one unwise decision cost one man so much:

Gen 13:10-12 (ESV) “*And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.*”

This one decision resulted in Lot losing his home, his wife, and his future sons-in-law. This decision also resulted in Lot’s daughter’s using deceit and trickery to have him impregnate them, which caused the birth of the Moab and Ammonite nations. These nations became enemies of Israel.

Although Lot was a righteous man and followed the way of the Lord (**2Pt 2:7-8**), he made a decision based on what seemed good to his eyes and that resulted in much suffering and misery for Lot, his family and the entire Israelite nation!

Brothers and sisters, when the way is before us we need make our decisions based on the Spirit and not our flesh. As the old saying goes, “looks are deceiving”. So let us pray for wisdom and seek godly advice when making important decisions. This will bring joy, peace, and contentment not only to our lives, but to our families and the kingdom of God as well!

Pro 3:7 “*Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.*”

“The Lord added to their number...” Acts 2:47 **Recent Baptisms**

Edwin Garcia	3/26/2011	Katherine Ynsinare	2/9/2011
Nikki Strittmatter	3/9/2011	Yannicke Burton	1/6/2011
Jacob Spencer	2/26/2011	Daran Riley	12/14/2010
David Molina	2/18/2011	John Smallstey	12/3/2010
Michelle Ynsinare	2/12/2011	JJ Stallworth	11/28/2010
Ariel Mathews	2/10/2011	Justin Andujar	21-Nov-10

“They first gave themselves to the Lord...” 2 Corinthians 8:5

Weekly Budget: \$ 9,000		
MONTH	AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION
January, 2011	285	\$9,284.20
February, 2011	298	\$9,254.50
March, 2011	319	\$10,299.75

The Narrow Road

Carolyn Shlesinger

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” [Matthew 7:13-14 \(NIV\)](#)

When the Lord added me to His church I didn't know much about God or the Bible. I just knew that Jesus said I have to be baptized to receive forgiveness of my sins—that's pretty much all I knew! I had no clue about how narrow the road to life is, or even that there is only one way—but He taught me about these things in time ([Psalm 119:102](#)). I am still learning so much about this narrow road and want to share some thoughts on that so you can be sure to stay on it too! Jesus died to put you on that narrow road. What a loving and merciful Lord to do that for us. He wants you to stay on that road, and in fact you are the only one who can take you off that narrow road! So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ([1 Corinthians 10:12](#))

Imagine physically driving on a narrow road. It takes careful attention and effort to keep from driving off of it. In the same way, spiritually we are placed on a narrow road and it takes careful attention and effort to stay on it. No one has it easy on this narrow road, because it is not an easy road we have chosen. Jesus says “only a few” find it and stay on this road. In [Luke 8:4-15](#) Jesus says that only one out of the four soils will remain. Again in [Matthew 7:22-23 \(NIV\)](#) it says “*Many will say to me on that day ‘Lord, Lord...’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you.’*” These are sobering words, sobering statistics, teaching us to hold fast to the Word of God so we don't fall.

When you read the Old Testament have you noticed how carefully detailed and specific the Lord is about worship and how Israel was to live? The Lord has not changed! The road that leads to life is still narrow, hedged in by God's laws. We would do well to remember that to guard against “progressive thinking”, in other words—leaving the narrow road. As it is written, “*You reject all who stray from your decrees*” ([Ps 119:118](#)).

It may be the road that is not popular, and certainly less travelled, but it is the ONLY road of hope, the road of true joy, blessings, and a rich inheritance! Therefore, my dear sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you from the narrow road.

“For the building up of the Body...”

Ephesians 4:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS QUARTER

- 📖 **Off Bible Class Dates:** Apr 13th (LI Only), May 11th, Jun 8th
- 📖 **Devotional Service Dates:** Apr 8th, 22nd, May 6th, 20th, Jun 3rd, 17^h
- 📖 **City Women’s Fellowship:** Apr 16th 10am-12pm at Rebecca Young’s Home
- 📖 **Homeschool Science/Art/History Fair:** Saturday, Apr 30th, 11am-1pm
- 📖 **Singles’ Ministry Retreat:** May 27th-28th. Contact Victor Quaye for details.
- 📖 **Harvest Saturday:** June 25th 11:30am-3pm
- 📖 **Timothy Hill Christian Camping Season:** 4 weeks: July 3rd-30th. See Danny Aponte for details.
- 📖 **Video Library:** If you have any items take out from the video library, please make sure they are signed out or return them if you’re done with them. Please see Rob Dixon in the back foyer Sunday after services for more information. Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to www.licoc.org and click the LIChurch Space link! If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- 📖 Address/telephone changes can be e-mailed to directory@licoc.org.
- 📖 **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

- ✝ Apologetics Press..... International
- ✝ We Care Ministries..... West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✝ Ron Clayton..... India
- ✝ Doug & Lucy McDougle..... Ukraine, Russia
- ✝ Long Island Harvest Campaign..... Central Islip, NY
- ✝ City Harvest Campaign..... Queens, NY

“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES

- Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.
- City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm).....Pedro Gelabert(347) 732-2101
St Luke’s Baptist Church Laurelton Senior Center, 133-21 232nd Street, Jamaica, NY 11413
- Spanish Ministry.....(Tuesday 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm).....Charlie Gómez.....(631) 772-2889
New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.
- College Ministry.....(Thursday 7:20 pm - 8:20 pm)....Ladipo Davies.....(631) 413-5863
SAC Room 309 at Stony Brook University, 100 Nicolls Road, Stony Brook, NY 11790

UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Willie Tolison, and Bill Oden. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.