

## Devotional

## Busting the Box

July 19, 2020

### Monday

Read Mark 1:16-18, Mark 8:29, and Mark 14:66-72

There is hope for transformation in your life. You are not defined by your failures: spiritual, moral, or otherwise.

Peter leaves his family, home, and business to follow Jesus. That is a huge investment! It better work out!

And it seems to be working out well. In Mark 8, he confesses that Jesus is the Messiah. Peter has made the right call!

And then it all comes crashing down. Jesus' arrest put Peter's beliefs in jeopardy. Peter abandons Jesus and denies any knowledge of him.

But the Peter who emerges to lead the Church Universal after Pentecost is radically different from the guy for whom the cock crowed.

Transformation happens. Let the Holy Spirit out of your God box so that your life can be transformed into being more like Jesus Christ!

### Tuesday

Faith is a verb, action, the dynamic that drives or gives life to the relationship between us and God. Our response called faith is the human recognition, on the one hand, that God is God, and, on the other hand, that each of us is special.

- Janet O. Hagberg and Robert A. Guelich, *The Critical Journey*

Faith is a verb. That strikes me as very powerful. So often, we define faith as something we have, something we possess. This definition lends faith a different perspective. It is awfully hard to possess a verb. We have Jesus Christ with us by the Holy Spirit. Faith is a growing relationship between you and God. You rest in faith, you are active in faith, faith is something that you are doing that alters the core of your being. Even when you feel far off from God – do faith!

## Wednesday

Read Acts 4:1-22

In verse 8, we hear that Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, as Brent mentioned last week. Peter cannot be full of the Holy Spirit if he is full of his own will or his own fears. He must be open to receiving what God offers in the Holy Spirit. What God offers as he appears before the Council is the ability to speak the truth to people who don't want to hear it and have the power to get rid of him (and we'll explore these themes more next week). Peter has let go of himself. The Holy Spirit has given Peter the wisdom, boldness, and simple eloquence to speak powerfully. The Council sees their boldness and are flabbergasted that these simple, uneducated men can speak in this way. Peter has moved beyond his own intellect to let God speak. He is not afraid of what he might say that sounds foolish or how he will say it. He has let go of all that fear. The Holy Spirit is at work. What would you like to let go of? How will you allow yourself to let it go?

## Thursday

Read Psalm 27

If you find yourself with a spiritual box, think, reflect, pray, and act upon how that box needs to be broken so that the Holy Spirit can run wild in your life.

If you haven't had a spiritual box or don't even know what I'm talking about, you might one day unwittingly find yourself with a spiritual box. Know that the box isn't the deepest you can go with God. Look forward to releasing God from that box and seek after God flowing through your life every moment.

And if you really like your box because it is beautiful and people at church are impressed by it, be aware that you are not outwitting God by showing off your box and Jesus desperately wishes that you'd let it go, no matter how painful it may be, to go on a deeper journey.

Be filled with the Spirit by letting go and let God be God in your life.

## Friday

We will be in Acts 4:1-22 again this Sunday. Read it this time with an eye to what this passage means for the Church and the world.