

## **Opening Day!**

### **Easter Sunday**

Sermon Series: Home Run Living, Pt. 1

April 5, 2015

### **Resurrection Passage:** John 20:1-8

**John 20:3**, So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb...

### **Before That Resurrection Morning, Peter...**

- **Rightly Proclaimed Who Jesus Was!** (Matthew 16:15-18)  
**Matthew 16:15**, He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you... <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- **Boldly Declared He Would Not Deny Christ!** (Matthew 26:33-35)  
**Matthew 26:33**, Peter answered Him, “Though they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” <sup>35</sup> Peter said to Him, “Even if I must die with You, I will not deny You!”
- **Drew His Sword To Defend Jesus!** (John 18:10-11)  
**John 18:10**, Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear...<sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?”

### **Peter Had Several Monumental Failures In His Life...**

- **Peter Walked On Water But Promptly Took His Eyes Off Jesus And Began To Sink** (Matthew 14:29-31)  
**Matthew 14:29**, He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”
- **Peter Fell Asleep Instead Of Staying On Watch For Christ** (Mark 14:36-37)  
**Mark 14:36**, And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Remove this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will.” <sup>37</sup> And He came and found them sleeping, and He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour?”
- **Peter Denied Jesus Three Times** (Matthew 26:74-75)  
**Matthew 26:74**, Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the Man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

### **Jesus Sought Out Peter To Put Him Back Into Service:**

**John 21:15**, *When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”*<sup>16</sup> *He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”*<sup>17</sup> *He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” and he said to Him, “Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.*

### **Peter’s Life After His Encounter With Christ:**

- **Peter Preached At Pentecost** (Acts 2)  
**Acts 2:38**, *And Peter said to them, “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. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off...*
- **Peter Stood Against Political Leaders** (Acts 5)  
**Acts 5:28**, *“We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.”*<sup>29</sup> *But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men”*
- **Peter Saw The Church Fulfill Acts 1:8 By Reaching The Jews (Acts 2), Samaritans (Acts 8) and Gentiles (Acts 10)**  
**Acts 1:8**, *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

- **Peter Wrote 1 Peter In Order To Feed The Sheep**  
**1 Peter 5:8**, *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...*

**Invitation:** Peter’s life was changed permanently when he encountered Christ after the Resurrection—Make a commitment now to spend the next **Five Weeks** with us at Cottonwood as we study the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter!