

Walking Through the New Testament with Paul the Apostle by His Life and Pen

LESSON NO.19 - Please read Acts 18:1-28 [verses 5-6] Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that **Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed Paul and became abusive**, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. **From now on I will go to the Gentiles.**”

Truth: **Jesus is the Messiah.** What will our response be to this eternal truth? **Jesus is God, the Messiah!** What every person believes about Jesus Christ determines their eternal destiny.

- Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Theme of this Lesson: The omniscience and omnipotence of Almighty God, Jesus Christ. What are we going to do with the One who knows everything about us? What are we going to do when God shines His perfect knowledge and truth upon us? What are we going to do with One who exactly **knows in advance when every rooster will crow** and when every sparrow will fall to the ground? What are we going to do with this Jesus when He asks us to give all our lives to Him as rightful owner?

- Mark 14:27-72 Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.’ “But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.” Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, **before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.**” But he spoke more vehemently, “If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” ... And they all said likewise. Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with Jesus of Nazareth.” But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you are saying.” And he went out on the porch, and **a rooster crowed.** And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, “This is one of them.” But he denied it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, “Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it.” Then he began to curse and swear, “I do not know this Man of whom you speak!” A second time **the rooster crowed.** Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus had said to him, “**Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.**” And when he thought about it, he wept.

To us, few things in creation seem as frail, helpless and remarkable as birds. These creatures depend, like all living beings, upon the total provision and protection of their Creator.

It is no accident that Jesus used birds to illustrate the infinite power and loving care of Almighty Creator God. When we carefully think about the birds in our world, how can we not trust such a God as this?

- Matthew 10:28-30 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two **sparrows** sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the **very hairs of your head are all numbered.**

- Numbers 11:31 Now a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought **quail** from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp, about a day’s journey on this side and about a day’s journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground.

- Job 38:41 Who **provides food for the raven**, When its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?

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- 1 Kings 17:4-6 And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the **ravens to feed you there.**” So he went and did according to the word of the Lord, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. The **ravens** brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

It was a **rooster crowing twice** that began the thought process for today's lesson.

Not only does the Lord know every sparrow that falls to the ground, but think of this even more profound truth, the Lord knows in **ADVANCE every chirp, every sound every bird makes** wherever in the entire world **BEFORE** it makes the sound!

This very same Jesus who knew **EXACTLY** when every rooster would crow also knew **EXACTLY** that His beloved disciple would deny Him in His great extremity and loneliness.

Yet, Jesus' love and care for Peter never wavered or lessened in even the smallest measure! Truly, we join with those who in amazement stated: - Luke 8:24 And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, “**Who can this be?** For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!”

We cannot help but be awestruck in amazement at the One who controls the winds and water and knows every sparrow and rooster chirp **BEFORE** it happens. Sovereign God can and is pleased to save anyone who will believe and truth in His Son, Jesus Christ.

- Acts 17:34 However, **some men joined him and believed**, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Jesus knew all about Dionysius and Damaris in **ETERNITY** past before the foundation of the earth.

- Ephesians 1:4-6 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having **predestined** us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

- Ephesians 1:7-12 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestined** according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Romans 8:28-30 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He **predestined**, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Thus, it is with awesome wonder we now introduce Acts 18 with Jesus' perfect omniscience:

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- Acts 18:9-11 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “**Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent**; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; **for I have many people in this city.**” And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

This same Jesus knows you! He knows your past, present and future, and, just as He loved, provided and protected Peter and Paul, He will bring you safely home for **He has already numbered all the hairs of your head.**

This is a very appropriate moment to express our thanksgiving again for the love and omniscience + omnipotence of Jesus and remember:

- Acts 1:10-11 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus**, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will so come in like manner** as you saw Him go into heaven.”

This same Jesus also told all the children of God:

- John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself**; that where I am, there you may be also.

As we contemplate **God's sovereignty** over all things, we will come to clearly understand that our **human responsibility** is to seriously believe the following admonition:

- Hebrews 2:1-3 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, **how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation**, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.

Let's carefully, diligently, gratefully submit ALL of our lives in complete surrender to the call of Jesus Christ on us as Peter admonishes us:

- 2 Peter 1:10-11 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Could you be the one God will use to *Tell Somebody Today* about His free gift of salvation bringing joy and pleasures forevermore, just as someone risked telling you? Your friend or neighbor needs to know. Who will tell them?

Some have written their salvation testimony and emailed it to us. And some have been forever changed reading their story, seeing themselves in it. If you feel led, please send us your story for God's praise and glory.

We love to receive your questions. Your questions can be sent to write2stm@gmail.com or WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com. All our love to you in Christ - Jon + Philis