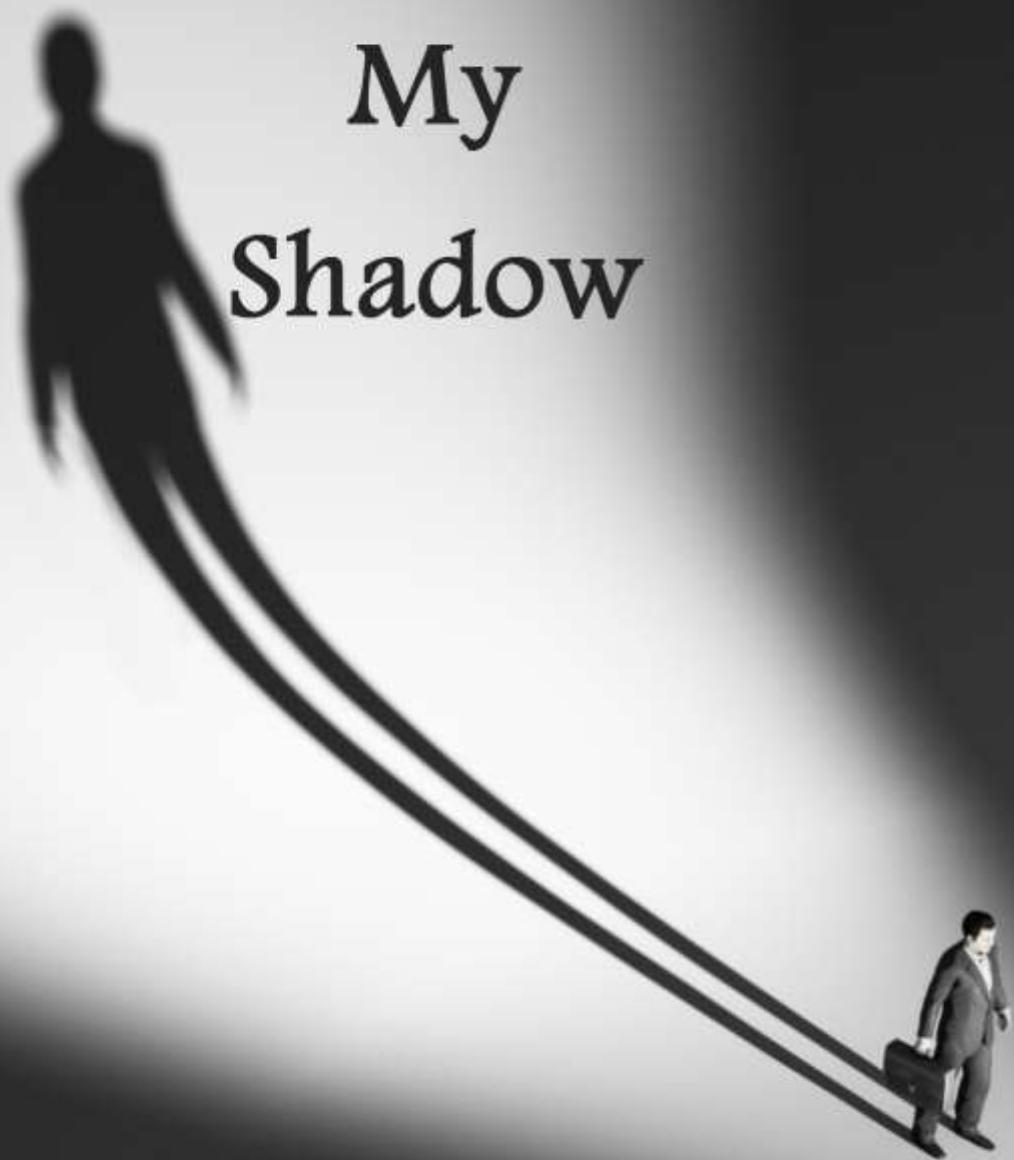


Me and My Shadow



Me and My Shadow

Acts 5:12–16.

“And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

¹³ And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

¹⁴ And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

¹⁵ Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

¹⁶ There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.”

In the life of the early church stood out some powerful men one of which was the Apostle Peter. Now it took some time and many experiences to get Simon Peter where he was. We have read about his attempt to walk on water and his sinking; we have heard his following a far off. We also know about at his denial of the Lord. It is evident that Peter is like you and I, he had to grow. Yes, Peter fell down several times but the important thing is he did not stay down he kept getting up. Now he is the most powerful man in the early church. His preaching had grew the largest crowds and great success had followed. In fact his name and ministry had reached far and wide. His reputation as a man of God, as a result people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that maybe Peter's shadow might fall on them as he passed by. Great crowds gathered from the towns around Jerusalem. They had brought their sick and the tormented ones by evil spirits and all of them were healed.

People who lived in Bible lands long ago paid more attention to shadows than we do today. They told time by the shadows. **2 Kings 20:9–10.** **“And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? ¹⁰ And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return**

backward ten degrees.” Today we just glanced at our watch or cell phone. Shadows were a cool place to get out of the hot sun. A shadow was an image of the beauty of life. **Psalms 102:11. “My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.” Job 14:1–2. “Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. ² He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.”** The Bible speaks of it be in a safe place. **Psalms 57:1. Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.”**

Here we read of the shadow of a great man of God, one so powerful that when it fell across the sick, they were healed. Now to begin with I'm sure that Peter did not even know what was happening, he was just living his life for God. Unaware of the powerful influence he had, he never gave any thought about it. Maybe you haven't either but each of us has a shadow to cast in this world and influence for good or bad, your actions are affecting someone.

In his autobiography number one, the late baseball manager Billy Martin described hunting trip he once took with Mickey Mantle. Mantle had a friend who allowed him to hunt on his ranch, and

when they arrived at the ranch, Mickey told Billy to wait in the car while he checked with his friend. Mantle's friend, as always, gave Mickey permission to hunt, but he asked Mantle for a favor. He had a pet mule in the barn who was going blind, and he didn't have the heart to put him out of his misery. "Would you shoot the mule for me?" Mantle agreed.

When Mickey came back to the care, he pretended to be angry. He slammed the door shut. "What's wrong?" Martin asked. Mantle growled. "He said we couldn't hunt on his land. I'm so mad at that guy that I'm going to go to his barn and shoot one of his mules!" Mantle drove to the barn like a maniac. The horrified Martin shouted, "We can't do that!"

"Just watch me!" Mantle replied.

When they arrived at the barn, Mantle jumped from the car with his rifle, ran inside, and shot the mule. As he was leaving, however, Mickey heard more shots and ran back to the car. He saw that Martin had taken out his rifle too.

"What are you doing, Martin?" he yelled.

Billy hollered back, face flush with anger, "We'll show that son of a gun! I just killed two of his cows!"

I. The reality of her shadow. Verse 12 – 15.

Now the influence of the apostle had spread. I think for one thing, they had just seen Peter bring judgment on Ananias and Sapphira. The power of God had been seen. This man Simon Peter had

become a standout to the people so much that they were influenced so much that people brought the sick into the streets and laid them where the shadow of Peter might come across them as he passed by. Imagine being the possessor of a healing shadow. I think it is because Peter's reputation had spread how he had power with God. Now today you may not think about this but everyone has a shadow. I mean an influence over someone else's life. We read in the Bible. **Romans 14:7. "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."**

A. A Personal Shadow. Vs 15

This was the shadow that belonged to Simon Peter his personal shadow and you have one of your own. This is on the ground a little spot that follows you were ever you go. You cannot live in the shadow of your daddy; no you have your own shadow. Yours may not be as big as someone else's, but you do have one. There have been some great preachers who had cast some big shadows. Men like Adrian Rogers, Billy Graham we even have some in our own area like Chester Dykes, or Bill Childers. We all have our own shadow and we must be careful about its influence, people are watching you. I read a story about a hot, humid day in Kansas City. The eight-hour shift seemed especially long for the veteran bus driver. Suddenly a young female passenger, apparently upset about something, let loose with a string of profane words. The bus driver, looking in his overhead mirror, could sense everyone around her felt embarrassed by the

obscurities.

A few blocks later, still mumbling, the angry passenger began to disembark. As she stepped down, the bus driver calmly said, “Madam, I believe you’re leaving something behind.”

“Oh?” she snapped. “And what is that?” “A very bad impression,” the bus driver responded.

Every dad needs to know this you cast a shadow over your boys. My mother recently gave me a belt that belonged to my father, who died in 1973. I remembered the belt when I looked at it. I remember thinking it was a lot bigger when my daddy had it on. He was the biggest man in my eyes I ever knew. Yes, every daddy needs to know their boys think that about them, etc. You are going to affect them.

I read a story of a small town in Missouri. A little dog came up where two boys were playing. They were preacher’s boys. They like the little dog. The little dog was very friendly and was solid black with a few white spots on its’ tail. They took the dog to their preacher daddy and said, “Can we keep him? We really like him.” The little boys found out a new family had moved into their community and the family had lost their dog; a black dog with a few white spots on the tail. They boys thought the family might come looking for the dog so they took some black shoe polish and turned those white spots on his tail black. When the family came by the said, “We believe that is our dog.” The preacher said, “How could that be your dog. You said, “Your dog had some white spots on its tail.” This dog is black.

The family said, “Well I guess that dog is not our dog. It must be yours.” They went away. The names of the boys was Frank and Jesse James; two of the meanest men in America. Story talks about them being preacher’s kids. They had a dad who kept a dog and lost his boys.

Mother's needs to know they cast a shadow over their girls. Yes, they will cook, dress and like act a lot like you. They are watching your life.

What is the life you are living today?

What is the message it hears on its way?

Others are waiting, oh what does it say?

What is the life your today?

B. A Powerful Shadow. Vs 15

Is this for real? Did the shadow of Peter passing by falling across the sick people heal them? Yes, that is what the Bible says right here. You may never think much about the life you’re living every day doing anything powerful like this. But healing to the hurting has been given just by your presence with them. Your kindness and love brings healing to a broken life. I'm sure you don't know how important you are in the kingdom of God because of the shadow you cast over someone's life. It could be your public school teacher; you are affecting many, many young people. Many of us may remember a schoolteacher that touched our life. As I do a lady by the name of Bertha Creekmore etc. Maybe you are a coach, you are casting a powerful shadow because those young people believe what you say and try to imitate your life. You are making a

difference. You may be a Sunday school teacher who is touching many lives by your influence. Maybe a bus driver, or a youth worker children look up to you. All of us remember some of these who touched our lives and blessed us along the journey of life. You help someone because of the shadow you cast over them. Be careful in **Zachariah 11:2**.

“Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled.” The cedar hovered over the fir tree. You see the cedar was a huge tree and the fir tree was a small tree. If the fir tree fell no one was affected by such a small tree it fell alone. But if the cedar fell it made news because it was standing so tall for many years and those in the shadow of it would be crushed by the fall. Do you understand what I am saying? To someone you are a mighty cedar. Those under you will be affected by your fall. Oh dads and mothers be careful. Please understand what I'm saying, hear me you are going to affect someone may be your own, for good or bad.

II. The Result of our Shadow. Vs 12–15

The apostle had been doing a great work for God. Many signs and wonders were done among the people. The people believed in him. In fact, they had so much faith in these men especially their leader Simon Peter that they started bringing their sick people to where the shadow of Peter may fall across them, and they believed they would be healed and they were. Simon Peter had walked so close to God and did so many good works and

influenced so many people. They believed in him. Noticed two things about his shadow.

A. A Shadow is Intangible.

I mean a shadow is the product of a solid body standing in the ray of light. You can see a shadow and even measure its length, but you cannot feel it, weigh it; because shadows are intangible. Yet God use Peter's intangible shadow to accomplish some very tangible results. As the result of Peter's shadow people were healed. Yes, it had to be their faith in Peter. They believed so much in him that people from the cities around Jerusalem were bringing their sick. I mean, his name was so popular he attracted people from a long way off. Peter is the instrument used to accomplish this work. But folks, it was God that did the healing not the shadow of Peter. We need to understand that God is able to use a shadow of a man of God. God called Moses, who only had a Shepherd's rod to do powerful work. Gideon who had a small army and pitches and torches to bring a great deliverance to Israel. David only had a sling shot but with the help of God he defeated Goliath. **Acts 19:11-12. "And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: ¹²So that from his body were brought unto the**

sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.”

I remember years ago of the testimony of a man who said he was saved because of a spot on the wall. He pointed out a little dark spot where a man had set so long and so faithful that was a dark spot. The man said because of his faithfulness and the memory and influence of him. He was saved, etc.

B. A Shadow is Incidental. Vs 15

The miracles that happened here is not the result of a planned meeting. It was not a revival, or a special meeting of any kind. No, it was just something that happened while Peter was walking down the street of the city. I mean as Peter walked by the sick his shadow fallen over them brought healing to their broken bodies. Here is a good example for us to follow. We not be may not be able to heal broken bodies, but we can heal broken hearts and damaged lives as we go through our daily walk showing the love of Jesus to others. Wherever Peter walked in his daily life he left miracles behind and brought Jesus Christ into the lives of other people. That's what a Christian should do we walk through life for Jesus. You never know what your shadow will do to help someone else. Often times it is just incidental. This has happened to me. As a young man I worked at a factory called American Greeting Card because it was all the way in Corbin we carpooled. In that car was a young

lady who rode and worked there, I would often mentioned about Jesus, my Savior and Lord, and how blessed I was to be a Christian. He did touch her. In fact, in later years I was doing a funeral and she was to doing the special music before we done the funeral. She said she wanted to share with me that while we were doing that carpool ride together and I was talking about the Lord Jesus. She had got saved. I had never known what I had done. Many of you do this every day you never know who's listening to you.

III. The Responsibility for our Shadow. Vs 15–16

Peter was a man who took serious his walk for Jesus Christ and what kind of shadow he cast over others. Have you ever wondered what people think about you? What does your community think about you? Paul was always concerned about his influenced over others. In fact in **1 Corinthians 8:13. “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”** Paul felt the responsibility of his shadow and how he might affect others.

A. A Shadow is Your Liability.

Just as Peter was responsible for his shadow each of us must feel the same liability for our actions. Your life is saying something to others, your actions like Peter's carries a lot of weight. We must be a person of character. Abraham Lincoln said that character was like a tree and reputation

like the shadow of the tree. Reputation is what people think we are. We need to guard our life to be a people of integrity a person who has healing in our shadow. When Isaiah wanted to describe a faithful leader he wrote. **Isaiah 32:2. “And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.”**

B. A Shadow is Your Legacy.

Your influence in this life will be a lasting legacy as time goes by even after you are gone. Like throwing a rock into a still pond, the rock quickly disappears but the ripples are left behind to go on and on and on. This is like the influence of your life. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said
Lives of great men all remind us.
We can make our lives sublime
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

You may find yourself speaking from time to time about someone who's touched your life. Even though now they have been gone a long time. Like we mentioned Chester Dykes, Gorman Estes, or Margaret Petrey, or Ted Surber. These people have cast some mighty big shadows that still remain and are affecting our life. What about the life you are living today?

"Come To The Mountain"



Mountain Ash TM

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