

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

September 14, 2008

Once in a lifetime

by Eric Hamilton

Ever since I first heard the story of Jesus walking on the water, I always wanted to be in the place of Peter. I pictured myself getting out of the boat and walking on the water toward Jesus. That would have been an amazing experience. Would you want to walk on water if you had the chance; to experience something that only two men have ever experienced?

As I consider that question, I wonder if the other eleven disciples that were in the boat ever wondered what that experience was like. Later in life did they look back on that event and wonder, "if only?" They had the opportunity to do something extraordinary, and they let fear and doubt stop them. The opportunity only came once, and then it was gone.

In life there are many "once in a lifetime" decisions to make. Some are very significant and can change the entire course of our lives. Some seem to be minute moments in life where we had the opportunity to do good, but we chose to bad for whatever reason we may have had at the time.

The Israelites had an opportunity to take the Promised Land fairly soon after they left Egypt. However, the report of the ten spies frightened the people and God punished them by making them wander in the wilderness for forty years. In Numbers 14:40-45, there was a group of Israelites that decided to go ahead and try and take the land after God declared

the punishment and killed the ten spies, but it was too late. The opportunity had passed.

There was a Jewish woman, Esther, who had happened to become the queen of the Persian Empire. Haman had set into motion a plan to destroy all of the Jews, and Esther was placed in the position of using her position to try and save her people, but at the risk of her own life. Her cousin Mordecai told her in Esther 4:13-14: "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Mordecai was telling her that she had an opportunity, and very limited one. God's plan for his people would work out one way or the other, but Esther's part in that plan was now in her hands. She could either retreat in fear, or rise to the occasion. She took her opportunity and saved her people.

Just like Peter actually stepped out of the boat and actually walked on water. He took his opportunity to face fear and do something that no one else could do except by the power of God.

Do not let fear keep you from taking actions of faith that could be once in a lifetime.