

Keep Your Eyes Focused on the Rock

SONG: "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand"

Introduction

The story is told of two men crossing the rugged Sierras on horseback. As they came to a large and swift-flowing river, the older and more experienced man said to the younger, "As we get to the deepest and swiftest part, be sure not to look down and from side to side at the swirling water around you, it will only make you dizzy." "Listen to me," the older man continued sternly, **"see that big rock on the other side? Keep your eyes focused on that rock!"** "OK" said the younger man.

As the men then crossed, they quickly approached the swift and turbulent midstream waters. The horses began to struggle, the spray of the icy waters splash against the men's faces. The young man began to center his attention solely on the waters swirling angrily around horse and rider. Becoming dizzy-headed, he began to struggle to remain on the saddle. The older man looked back, and noticing the young man laboring hollered out, "Keep your eyes focused on the rock! Keep your eyes focused on the rock!" The young man, barely able to hear, desperately and with great difficulty focused his eyes on the rock. Soon his head began to clear, and soon they were on the other side safe and sound.

Hebrews 5:8-9 "though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him"

1. **Life is filled with daily struggles in all shapes and sizes.**
 - A. **As Christians we recognize that Satan is behind these and is trying desperately to conquer us. Peter says:**

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, **seeking whom he may devour.**

2. **The devil desires that we focus our attention on our problems. But if we do that, it will destroy us.**
3. **Satan knows that if we focus solely on the swirling waters around us, we will lose our proper perspective in life that the Lord commands us to keep**
4. **While we cannot and must not ignore our problems, we must always keep in mind where our strength comes from in finding the solutions to those problems.**
 - A. **Our strength is in Jesus Christ - the SOLID ROCK.**

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

- 1) **Jesus is the ROCK of our salvation.**
Hebrews 13:5-6
 - 2) **We must have that kind of faith in Jesus. Never lose sight of Him. Remain faithful to Him ---- Especially during troubled times!**
5. **There are several reasons why we should keep our eyes focused on the rock of Jesus Christ:**

Jesus Cares for Us

1. Jesus cares that man is burdened with sin!

A. Everybody sins (Romans 3:23), and sin restricts our fellowship with God (2 Corinthians 6:14f)

1) Sin also ravages our lives

Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

B. These are heavy burdens that we bear, especially when we stubbornly remain in sin! But does Jesus care that we are burdened?

1) He certainly does care! He left Heaven's glory to die for us, so that our burdens could be removed.

2. Jesus cares that man labors with trials.

A. Our labors and trials come in all forms. They come from the hostile world around us and even from our own homes.

B. He cares when our heart is pained, that burdens press and cares distress.

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

1) Why not let Jesus share our burdens and help us find the answers to our daily problems?

3. Jesus cares that we NOT perish with this world.

A. The disciples asked:

Mark 4:38-40 "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

- 1) Jesus cares that we do not perish, not in the storms of this life nor in the storms of God's final judgment. That is why He died for us.
2 Peter 3:9-14**

B. Yes, Jesus cares - there is no doubt!

- 1) The question should be DO WE CARE?
 - a. Do we care enough to have our sins cleansed by His blood, to trust Him with our cares?****

We should keep our eyes focused on the rock of Jesus Christ because we want to do whatever Jesus asks of us!

Walk with Jesus

1. **Jesus does not want us to perish in the swirling waters of life's problems. He wants us to stay focused on Him so that we can be saved and have eternal life.**
2. **Therefore, to stay focused on the rock of Christ we should want to do anything that Christ asks of us.**

A. **Walk in His Truth.**

- 1) **To be able to walk in truth is to learn what truth is - this requires study on our part.**

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

B. **Walk in His Love.**

- 1) **Jesus is the essence of love. He manifested this love on the cross.**

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- 2) **He was willing to sacrifice His life for us even while we were sinners. The most valuable thing that we have in this life is our life! What greater sacrifice can be offered?**

- a. **We must be willing to sacrifice the things that we value most in our lives for the sake of others. When we do, we will learn what is perfect.**

Matthew 5:43-48

C. Deny Ourselves and Follow Him.**Matthew 16: 24-27**

- 1) **Jesus asks of us to put Him first (Matthew 6:33). We must voluntarily lay aside our wants and wishes and transform ourselves to WANT to obey the Lord.**

D. Follow the Example of Jesus.

- 1) **Are you walking in the footsteps of Jesus? Jesus said:**

John 8:12 I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

- 2) **Keep focused on the rock of Christ and follow in His light to safety. We must look to the Son of God as our example in life — Not the ways of man (Acts 5:29).**

- a. **Jesus fully expects us to follow His lead.**

John 13:15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

- b. **Let's all strive to make the effort to follow the example of Jesus, striving to be Christlike in our daily life!**

E. Obey the commandments of Jesus.

- 1) Jesus told the disciples to teach the gospel to all nations, He then taught them that:**

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

- 2) We have example after example in the book of Acts that plainly shows how one becomes a Christian.**

- a. In each and every account it was not until that individual was baptized that he became saved.**

- 3) Many say that baptism is not necessary to be saved. Why? The Bible certainly does not teach this.**

1 Peter 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: (KJV)

- a. I don't understand why people try to change the plain commandments of Jesus. Remember, if we are going to make it to eternal safety ---- we **MUST keep our eyes focused on the Rock of Jesus Christ.****

- 1. Whatever He says, do it!**

Five Facts about Jesus Christ

1. Jesus Loves You!

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

2. Jesus Died For You!

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Romans 5:6-8 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. In Jesus, You Are Free From Condemnation!

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

4. In Jesus, You Are More Than Conquerors!

Romans 8:31, 37

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. You Must Be Baptized INTO Jesus!

Romans 6:3-4

Galatians 3:26-27

Conclusion

1. **Before we can ever make it safely through the swift rivers of life we must focus our eyes on Jesus.**
 - A. **God has told us what we must do.**
 - B. **Elders, Preachers, Teachers (in teaching the word of God) have told us what we must do.**
2. **Once focused we must continue to stay focused. Because if we do not, Satan will infiltrate our life.**
3. **Do you love Jesus this morning?**
 - A. **If your answer is YES, notice what Jesus said:**

John 15:12-14 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends". "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you".

John 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments.

