

March 21st and 22nd

A REVISIT WITH ST. PATRICK

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

2 Timothy 2:1-3

“Picture yourself on a sinking cruise ship. You’ve got five minutes to give your loved ones a message. It’s the last message that you’ll ever give them. What would you say? What would you like for them to feel? These questions help us diagnose what’s most important to us. It’s like the annual physical with labs where the doctor comes in to tell you how your body is doing. Or it’s like the annual car inspection. The mechanic lets you know what’s wrong with the car and what repairs need to be done to keep your car on the road. No one enjoys these moments...but they are urgent needs. If ignored, the fixes become bigger problems that can disrupt life. It’s no different with your relationship with the Lord. Too often, we lose sight of the main thing...our connection with Jesus. St. Patrick of Ireland isn’t just a quaint story of an Irish hero. God can teach us some things through his life. What does God have for us to see in this man who’s been dead for over fifteen hundred years?

Patrick was devoted to his God. He showed this commitment through his devotion to the Bible. Patrick openly apologizes for his weak use of Latin. As people read some of his writings, they can pick up on his humble spirit quickly. And yet what people can see the most in Patrick is that he loved his Bible. Each encouragement that came from Patrick was stocked full of God’s Word. His message came solely from the Bible. His trust in God’s Word gave him confidence when faced with the persecution of Ireland. God gave Patrick encouragement through the Scriptures. Charles Spurgeon once challenged God’s people to have their blood be Bibline. This means that the Bible is so central to your life that it flows into everything that you think or say. Patrick of Ireland’s blood was Bibline. Every conversation was an opportunity to bless with God’s Word.

Patrick was devoted to the Irish people. Remember, he wasn’t from Ireland. He was from across the sea and could have stayed back in Britain when he escaped as a slave. But God. God didn’t leave him to a comfortable life. Instead, God called him to give the gospel to the Irish. Patrick obeyed God and dedicated the rest of his life to sharing Jesus with the Irish. There was no other option; he had to obey His master. He moved from escaping Ireland to loving the Irish. He was fully devoted to giving the good news of Jesus even when faced with trials and discouragements.

Men, what does God want to teach you through Patrick’s life? Your culture is different from Irish or British culture in the 400s. But God is still the same. The God who is Patrick’s Master is also your King. You may not fly across the world to give the gospel as a career missionary. You may not drive to McAlisterville and share the gospel with the residents. But God has given you His Word. His Word is meant to nourish your soul, just like it gave Patrick his food. God’s Word to you is meant to send you as his man to give Him glory. It may not be flashy, and you may not be an expert. But the good thing is that God doesn’t call you to be an expert. He calls you to be His child and His disciple. God gives you all that you need to be His tool to make Him famous. Don’t forget His Word that charges you with His commission! How will you respond today?

Spend some time reflecting on how special God’s Word is. Ask God to give you hunger for His truth.

For Further Reading: Acts 20:17-38

