DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



TEXT SUMMARY

In this week's text, <u>2 Peter 1:12-18</u>, Peter explains why he has written his letters to his people, and he identifies the source of his message: not cleverly written stories but his own eyewitness experience of the glory of Christ Himself, a foretaste of the glory of the Son at His Return.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. Our text opens with the word "Therefore." What is the connection between v. 12-15 and the previous paragraph (v. 3-11)?
- 2. Because he knows his death is near, Peter wants to be sure his readers will remember what he's told them even after he is gone. Find the three-fold repetition of the theme of reminding and remembering in v. 12-15.
- 3. What event does Peter refer to in v. 16-18? If church history is correct, Mark was Peter's protégé and the writer of the Gospel of Mark. What observations can you see in Mark's (Peter's) account of that event in Mark 9:2-7?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- The word translated "departure" in v. 15 is literally "exodus." What parallels can you see between a believer's death and the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt?
- 2. Liberal Bible scholars sometimes argue that we should understand the Gospels as legends that grew up over the centuries following Jesus' day: a simple Galilean rabbi came to be regarded as a miracle-worker whose death eventually came to be viewed as cosmically significant. Why does it matter whether the events recorded in the Gospels are history or myth? Couldn't we derive the same moral lessons from the stories even if they didn't take place in the same space-time continuum we inhabit?

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SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

- 1. **Peter acknowledges that his readers already know what he's telling them.** In fact, he knows that they are already "established" in that truth.
 - What does it mean to be "established" in a truth? How is that different from/deeper than "knowing" a truth?
 - Why would Peter think it necessary to reiterate truths his readers already know so well?
 - Why is it essential for a believer to be constantly (not just occasionally) exposed to the teaching and preaching of the Word?
 - In your own weekly schedule, what are the touchpoints where you engage with Scripture on a regular basis? What could you do to make your Scripture engagement more regular and less sporadic?
- 2. The transfiguration of Jesus clearly played a crucial role in Peter's understanding of Jesus. Peter was one of only three men who was given a glimpse into the splendor and glory that Jesus will display at His Return. How can modern-day believers, who have never seen such a thing, sustain their hope and their confidence in the promises of God, especially when they are bewildered and discouraged?
- 3. Most scholars see in Peter's recollection of the Transfiguration a glimpse into the glory that Jesus will display at His Second Coming. What role does the promise of the Second Coming play in your faith? How would your spiritual journey be different if Jesus had never promised to return?