

Intro: Having lunch w/ Bill the other day in the office and he showed me a video, I wanted to show it but he wouldn't let me... Seems woman and her husband were on car safari, driving thru, argument, she gets out, goes to his door, opens...tiger!

ASK MYSELF: *How Did This Happen?*

1. She was distracted: Wasn't paying attention to in a dangerous situation! (Sure there were signs everywhere!)
  2. She wasn't on her guard! Thought she was OK. Didn't SEE a tiger...assumed he wasn't there, turned her back!
- That is what Peter is warning us about in our passage this morning: He is saying: "Don't Feed The Tiger!"

1 Peter 7-11; 5:6-11 Pg 859

Peter is starting to "wrap things up" in his letter. Remember what he has been saying all along:

"How do you live UP in a DOWN World?"

We don't fit...We are aliens and strangers...Our Culture, Our Values, Our Priorities...All Different!

We are waiting for...anticipating...the Return of Christ, so how do we live until He gets here?

2 Peter 3:11: Jesus is returning soon: "What kind of People Ought We to Be?"

4 Things We Do While We Wait!

### 1. Keep Your Eye On The Enemy! Don't Let Your Guard Down.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Peter is saying: "Don't feed the Tiger!"

- Be Spiritually Aware  
~Self Controlled: Lit = *To be sober, (Not controlled by wine) In your sound mind*  
~Alert: Lit = *Watchful, Awake, Vigilant* Mk 14:38 (*Garden: Watch and Pray!*)
- Resist The Devil: Lit = *To stand against, to Withstand* (*Battle Lines*)  
~With the Word of God Jesus Luke 4:1-13  
~Trusting Gods strength Gabriel Jude 1:9
- Draw near to God Lit = *approach, keep close* James 4:7-8

Here is what Peter is trying to say to us:

1. Don't be distracted by the circumstances of life: Pay attention...This is a spiritually dangerous world!
2. Don't let your guard down. He comes to steal, kill, destroy. Turn your back, he will attack!

### 2. Keep Your Heart Right With God.

1 Peter 5:5b-9

Waiting in the right way, Continuing to Live UP in a very DOWN word is not just negative: Some Very Positive things we do Peter tells us about a couple of them right here

And as always in the Bible, he goes right for the heart!

- Stay Humble before God: Lit = *Be Clothed: Passive: Let God Put Humility On You!*  
Jesus Mt 18:4: *Jesus said: "Like a little child" Trusting God*  
Remember HE is God...and YOU are not! He will treat you as His beloved child  
Quote fm Proverbs 3:34 (Referenced Many times in the NT!)
- Casting Your Anxiety on Him: *To throw or cast upon him, All your distractions or cares*  
Psalm 55:22 Cast your care upon him and He will sustain you!  
That is what a time of commitment is all about at end of Svc

Peter is telling us here, "Trust God!" He doesn't need your help, He has this!

Come and ask for His strength, come and give your anxiety, your concerns, your worries to Him

### 3. Keep Your Personal Life In Order.

1 Peter 4:7; 5:8

Keep your Eye on the Enemy, Keep Your Heart Right Before God, *Keep Your Personal Live in Order!*

Peter is the right Guy to tell us this! When you read it, get flashbacks of what happened in Peter's life!

All the things that he is writing to us about here...are things that HE FAILED at in the end of Jesus ministry!

- Clear minded: 4:7 Lit = *No wine; Sober or watchful!* Don't let your guard down ( I did!)
- Self-controlled: 4:7, Lit = *to be calm and collected in spirit:* Don't allow yourself to get rattled  
Illus: (T-Shirt)Be Calm and Keep Eyes Open!! Self control
- Humble Yourself: 5:6 Not too think too much of yourself; This one YOU do! Action You Take  
Be Self controlled: 5:8 Lit = *Be calm and collected: Don't FREAK OUT* when he comes  
Be Alert: (Vigilant) 5:8 Stay awake, alert: On toes Come "watch with me!" same word...Peter fell asleep!  
Mark 14:38  
Didn't stay humble: Lord, everyone else around here might deny you...BUT NOT ME! I'll DIE for you!  
Didn't stay trusting, He was called out around the fire, warming his hands, "I don't know the man!"  
Didn't stay Watchful 3 X Jesus returned to find him asleep!

ILLUS: Sometimes the best lessons we ever learn are through FAILURE...and Not Success.

When we walk through the difficulties and discover our limitations...we find God Faithful...and we Grow!

That is true for Peter: When everything was on the line, He choked!

*Not humble, Not Awake, Allowed His Worries to Cause Him to Stumble!*

That is why he writes us here and tells us, Don't do what I Did!

#### 4. Stay Busy Serving God and Others.

1 Peter 5:

Listen, God's Blessing and Power and Presence surround those who are serving Him!

- **Love People**
  - ~Deeply: Lit = Fervently, Passionately, "To stretch yourself out for them" (Athlete at finish line)
  - ~Practically: Hospitality: Lit = To be fond of guests (w/o grumbling)
- **Use Your Gift**
  - ~Speaking Gift Teacher, Preacher, Small Group, SS Class
  - ~Serving Gifts Usher, Greeter, Counter, Food Pantry, (Merger 30-40 different opportunities!)
- **Steward God's Grace:**
  - ~Faithful Dependable; Reliable, Doing what is right (*Proper use of what was entrusted to you*)
  - ~Dependently W Strength God provides (*Allowing Him to work through you! You can't anyway*)
  - ~Glorify Him Pointing People to God...to His Son Jesus

When you are Busy Serving God...In the middle of ministry...God's presence is right there with you!

**APPLIC:** As we get ready for the merger, I want to invite you into ministry this fall!  
Incredible opportunities  
Small group leaders, SS Teachers for Children, Students,  
EVERY Area of ministry is ready to move forward  
The 3 Pastors are spending Mon-Wed together, planning for Fall  
When we return...you may well get a phone call...if you don't...You Call us!  
Say, I want to be a part of what God is going to do  
Major steps forward from Sept to Dec...Don't miss it

#### CONCLUSION:

If you DO those 4 things: Look at the Result!  
Yes, it is DIFFICULT Living Up in a Down World,  
But you CAN do it!  
And when you do it right, God promises to walk with you...

- **Restore You:** Get beat up by this upside down world, its Ok  
*To completely and thoroughly repair and restore!*
- **Make You Strong:** *To provide strength and spiritual power*
- **Make You Firm** *To plant you To make you firm and unmovable*
- **Make you Steadfast** *To give you a strong foundation*

If you need those things this morning, come and ask for them.

If you feel God calling you to go to the next level spiritually and get involved: Communication Card