THE STORY OF PETER And THE STORY OF RUTH

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

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by

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CHAPTER FIVE

PETER'S EXPERIENCE ON A MOUNTAIN

FROM THE DAY Peter confessed Christ to be the Son of God until the day of His death the Lord Jesus many times told the disciples of His coming death and resurrection; but they did not seem to understand His words.

At that time Jesus also told them that someday the Son of Man would come to earth again in the glory of His Father with His angels. As He looked around upon that group of His loved followers, He said that some of them that were standing with Him that day would have a vision of the Son of Man coming in the glory of His kingdom.

In a few days this came true. Jesus chose three of the disciples, Peter, James and John to leave the others and go with Him to the mountain. I think it was in a quiet, secluded place near the top where they stopped to rest.

While Jesus prayed the three disciples slept; when they awoke they saw a wonderful sight. The Lord Jesus had, for a little time, dropped His earthly garments. They saw Him clothed in the garments of heaven, in His very own clothing that He wore before He came down to earth to live in a human body.

The Bible tells that He was transfigured before them. That is, He was changed. His whole appearance was glorious. Then two men in heavenly garments came to visit Him, men who had been in heaven for hundreds of years, Moses and Elijah. What did they talk about? They talked of Jesus' coming death on the cross.

Peter, always ready to say something, thought that he would make a suggestion. It was so wonderful to be in the company of such distinguished guests that he proposed to build three tabernacles. One would be for Moses, one for Elijah, and one for Christ.

Oh, Peter! How foolish to think that out of a few branches of trees you could make dwelling places for those whose mansions were already in heaven!

When we do not know the right thing to say, would it not be better for us to keep still?

Then a cloud came down and overshadowed them and God's voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him."

And when the voice was silent they saw no one save Jesus only.

What a glorious experience for Peter, James and John!

In later years Peter wrote a letter to certain churches in which he recalled this time upon the mountain. He said, "For we have not told you foolish, made-up stories, when we told you of the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we saw Him transfigured with our own eyes. And this voice, which came down from heaven, we heard when we were with Him in the mount."

In other words, Peter tells the church that the vision of Jesus glorified on the mountain that day was just a picture of what His splendor and power shall be when He shall come to earth again.

~ end of chapter 5 ~

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