

**“CASTING A SHADOW”****Pastor Mike Corwin****TEXT: ACTS 5:12-16****GOD’S WORD: PSALM 91:1-16****I – FAMILY SHADOWS:**

One of the regrets I had while I was the Chief of Police in Bucyrus was that I couldn’t hire my son. I wanted to hire him because I knew what he believed in, I knew he would be a good solid employee who always showed up for work and would do what he needed to do to get the job done, but I also knew it would cause trouble. I knew that people would say he got the job because of who his dad was, that the other officers he would work with would always be secretive around him and look down on him because his dad was the boss. I knew that no matter how good he was I wouldn’t be able to praise him without bringing sarcasm on his shoulders from other employees and if I had to discipline him they would always say he got off easy because of who his dad was. I told him that he needed to go to another department and carve his own niche in law enforcement instead of living in my shadow. He did and he’s done a pretty good job of carving it out as he is Now Chief Deputy of the Marion Co. S.O. and is well respected by his peers. His dad’s pretty proud too!

I realize though that he is who he is today because he did live in my shadow as he grew up. He saw my work ethic and knew what my morals and standards were and he learned them and uses them himself. He also learned my poor qualities too like being a perfectionist and having little tolerance for lazy people. My daughter lived in that same shadow and learned my warped sense of humor but also a work ethic. She too learned some of my bad ones like having control issues.

They were both affected by the shadow I cast on them as they were growing up.

**II – FAITH SHADOW:**

Luckily I cast another shadow on them too while they were growing up. I cast a shadow of my faith on them. I made sure they got to Sunday school and Bible school. I made sure they knew how to pray at night and before meals, as well as other times. They knew that God was a priority and on Sunday Church came first before staying overnight or

shopping or sleeping in or anything else and it didn't matter how much they grumbled, they were still going. They knew that I attributed my calmness and ability to handle the stress of life and the job to my faith. They also knew how much I cherished my relationship with my Savior Jesus.

They must have learned something in that shadow because they both know Jesus as their Savior and they both are casting the same shadow for their children, taking them to church and serving their churches in various ways. Not only do I see this in my children but I see it in our church as I look at the various ones of you who serve and influence our youth and others.

But I want you to realize something this morning. People, regardless of their age, can't live in your shadow if you don't cast one. My children knew all this because I didn't just tell them about it - I modeled it. I cast a shadow. I didn't just drive them to church and drop them off; I went inside and worshipped with them. I prayed with and for them, etc. The other families I mentioned do the same thing. They too have learned that you can't cast a shadow from behind someone as you tell them what to do. You can only cast a shadow when you stand up for Jesus and allow the Son to shine through and around you, regardless of everything else and whether it's popular or not.

### **III – TEXT:**

That's what's happening in our text this morning. Listen to this passage from Acts that gives us a look at the actions of the Apostles during the earliest days of the Church.

#### **Acts 5:12-16 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup>The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>13</sup>But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. <sup>14</sup>Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women. <sup>15</sup>As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. <sup>16</sup>Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed.

In the chapter just before this one we read that Peter and John had been out preaching, teaching, and healing and got called on the carpet for it by the Sadducees, leading priests, and the Temple guards. They were interrogated and told not to do anymore of it. They were even threatened with physical discipline should they continue. And here in the very

next chapter we see that evidently Peter and the others didn't pay much attention to this warning.

It says that they were still going around performing miracles, still preaching, and still teaching. And they were doing it right under the noses of those who had told them to cease and desist. They were doing it at the Temple. Some wouldn't cross the line of the religious people for fear of what would happen, but more and more did and crowds of men and women joined this new faith movement called Christianity. More and more found and gave their lives to Jesus and had them changed forever.

Not only were they still preaching and teaching, but people were being healed too. I think the reason is found in verse 15.

*“As a result of the apostles’ work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter’s shadow might fall across some of them as he went by.”*

The church was growing because even in the face of death, Peter and the others stood up and cast a shadow. They had been threatened - but they didn't care, they had been arrested - but they didn't care, they had been made outcasts by the religion they grew up in - but they didn't care. All they cared about was telling others about Jesus and watching their lives be changed as they came to know him. All they were interested in was the saving of souls. They cast such a shadow that it was believed merely having Peter's shadow pass over you would heal you.

It doesn't really say so, but I believe it is implied that they were actually healed by that shadow. I believe it because I know the power and presence of God can be overshadowing. That's what the Psalmist was saying in the verses you heard read this morning.

#### **IV – JESUS' SHADOW:**

I believe that we can cast such a shadow on society today. That we can still preach, teach, and heal in the name of Jesus. I believe that we can still see lives changed and souls saved by standing up and casting our shadows on others. To do that we have to first realize that Peter and the first disciples got their power because they first lived in the shadow of Jesus. Every effective disciple since has been able to build the Kingdom of God because they first lived in the shadow of Jesus

That's why He came – to cast the shadow of God's love on a sinful and broken world. He was born in a stable to prove that love was assessable to everyone. He lived a lowly life

as the son of a Jewish carpenter and his wife so we would know that God's love could be attained by anyone. That no one was beneath it. He was casting his shadow on the world as he traveled the countryside preaching, teaching, and healing all who would listen and come to him. Then he cast a shadow that has persisted for over 2,000 years and will persist until the end of time. He stood up in the face of religious prejudice and hatred. He sacrificed his own comfort and well being as he allowed himself to be arrested for crimes he did not commit, allowed himself to be beaten, whipped, spit on, and humiliated until blood ran from open wounds on his body left by the lash and the thorns pushed into his head. He remained silent as he heard his own people call for his death. His shadow grew as he shouldered his own cross and carried it up Calvary and it grew bigger yet as they laid him on the cross and drove nails into his hands and feet and then lifted him in their air. God's shadow overcame the earth as darkness fell at the moment he died on that cross so that his blood would be the sacrifice required for our sins.

That shadow continues to grow when people like us stand up and continue to cast it on generation after generation. It grows when we live in the shadow of the cross and invite others to live there too.

## **V – CHURCH SHADOW:**

Are you living in that shadow? Are you in the shadow of the cross? Have your sins been covered by the blood of Christ? I hope so, because if you aren't, then you can't cast the right shadow for others. And that's what we're called to do...cast shadows for Jesus Christ.

When it comes to our church we need to ask, "How big is the shadow it casts." Does the church have a shadow, and how far does it reach? Are people being healed as they pass through it? Can they find rest and shelter in it? Does it change their lives for the better? Does it lead them to a real relationship with Jesus Christ? Does it build the Kingdom of God on earth? Are we Casting a Shadow on the entire city of Bucyrus, Ohio and beyond?

I know that it's not always popular...I know that there are all kinds of other things that clamor for your attention...I know that sometimes it would be easier to live as a follower of the world instead of as a follower of Jesus...and I know that there are hardships and adversity associated with being a disciple of Jesus Christ. But I also know this...that if we don't stand up and cast a shadow for Jesus the world will continue down the path it is on and people will die forever. The size and the shape of the shadow is dependent on how tall you all stand. I pray you will all live in and then project the shadow of the cross.

AMEN