

## **Peter is Restored**

**John 21:1-25**

**January 16, 2022**

Restore – apokathistemi (greek) means to give back, set up again, restore to its original position or condition.

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, Peter and some other disciples returned to what they knew; fishing (John 21:3-4).

This was the third time Jesus had shown himself to the disciples.

No doubt that Peter had met with the Lord privately (Luke 24:34 and 1 Corinthians 15:5) but he had denied the Lord publicly so restoration took place publicly.

I wonder about his feelings and thoughts about what had happened on that night when around another fire Peter had denied knowing Jesus. Now, here he was in another moment. This time, around the fire, the resurrected Jesus began a conversation with Peter in which He would fully restore him. The scene was designed to awaken Peter's conscience and open his eyes. The catch of fish reminded him of his call to leave his nets and follow Jesus. The fire would have reminded him of his denial. Being at the Sea of Galilee should have reminded him of many other experiences like the feeding of the 5,000 and his walking on water toward Jesus. The stage was set for restoring him to his calling. Peter had denied Jesus three times. Jesus even told Peter at the last Passover meal He shared with them that Peter would deny Him, but after he had been restored Peter would "...strengthen your brethren." Luke 22:32 The time of restoration had come. Jesus patiently asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" Peter affirmed his love for Jesus each time. Every time, Jesus gave the instruction for Peter to feed my sheep. Each time the wording was slightly different, but each time the goal was the same—for Peter to affirm his love and be assured he had been restored to his place of service. Peter had failed Jesus with his denials, but in answer to Jesus' prayer, Peter's faith had not failed. Peter, like all people, was sinful and subject to failure. It is true of all of us.<sup>1</sup>

**Peter's impulsiveness.**

**Peter's restoration.**

**Peter's focus on others.**

**The Lord's Plan to use Peter, in spite of himself.**

The Lord rebuked Peter and reminded him that his job was to follow, not to meddle into the lives of other believers. Beware when you get your eyes off the Lord and start to look at other Christians! "Looking unto Jesus" should be the aim and practice of every believer (Heb. 12:1–2). To be distracted by ourselves, our circumstances, or by other Christians, is to disobey the Lord and possibly get detoured out of the will of God. Keep your eyes of faith on Him and on Him alone.

This does not mean that we ignore others, because we do have the responsibility of caring for one another (Phil. 2:1–4). Rather, it means that we must not permit our curiosity about others to distract us from following the Lord. God has His plan for us; He also has plans for our Christian friends and associates. How He works in their lives is His business. Our business is to follow Him as He leads us (see Rom. 14:1–13).<sup>2</sup>

**God wants to use you, He wants to restore you, He even wants to use the "bad" for His good.**

**Prayer Focus:**

**I will lay all of who I am to all of who God is and say God use me, flaws and all.**

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<sup>1</sup> Dennis Watson, Connecting the Dots Devotion

<sup>2</sup> Warren Wiersbe, BE Series