



**A FRESH START**  
**JOHN 21:15-19**

## **Couple in marriage counseling after struggling the last 10 years of marriage**

- It was a typical setting where she said, “He does this...” and he comes back with, “She always does this...”
- Constant cycle of forgiveness without restoration
- Doubts, but little change

**Have you ever thought, "I forgive them. I just don't want anything to do with them anymore!"**

- You see in this statement, there is a difference between forgiveness and restoration
- The act of Forgiveness is not optional, **Mark 11:25**  
**NLT** "But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too."

**Have you ever thought, "I forgive them. I just don't want anything to do with them anymore!"**

- This forgiveness does not depend on a request from the offender to be forgiven. This is forgiveness based on our relationship with God, not your offender.
- Restoration or a fresh start is a process to rebuild trust and restore what was broken or strained for everyone involved
- We will see Jesus starting Peter on the road toward restoration process this morning

- **1st Corinthians 15:3-5 NLT** 3 I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.

- There is nothing recorded about what was discussed when Jesus met with Peter alone
- Probably here was where Peter asked for and received forgiveness
- Restoration probably happened here with Jesus to Peter, but not Peter to Jesus or Peter to the rest of the disciples

- **John 21:15-19 NIV** 15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”
- Stop here just for a second and ask the question, “What are the more than these?”
  - Peter do you love me more than your boat, 153 fish, business, what you are good at, freedom?
  - Peter do you love me more than the other disciples love me?

- **John 21:15-19** 16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” 17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

- **John 21:15-19** 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

## **A fresh start begins by addressing the source of the failure, not the symptoms**

- Pain is a symptom God has blessed us with for the body to tell us something is not right
- There is no healing if the pain persists unless we find out the source of the pain
- You can treat the pain of cancer until it finally takes your life, or you can deal with the cancer and possibly take the pain away and continue to live

## **A fresh start begins by addressing the source of the failure, not the symptoms**

- We know why we are here in scripture, Peter's denial of knowing Jesus three times after being warned
  - Peter's denial was a symptom of something deeper within him, not the source
  - Peter's goals were not Jesus' goals
  - Peter's strength was Peter
  - Peter's loved the things of Peter more than Jesus

## **A fresh start begins by addressing the source of the failure, not the symptoms**

- We spend so much time dealing with symptoms without addressing the source
  - If Peter was just more disciplined, then....
  - If Peter just knew more of God's Word, then....
  - If Peter was just personally stronger, then....
  - All true statements, but they are dealing with symptoms not the source

# A fresh start begins by addressing the source of the failure, not the symptoms

- We might say:
  - If I just knew my trigger points, then....
  - If I just stayed away from the computer, then....
  - If I could just control my thoughts, then....
  - If my kids or spouse would just do this, then....
  - If I had a more Christian job

## **A fresh start begins by addressing the source of the failure, not the symptoms**

- Notice Jesus is not dealing with symptoms here with Peter
- He didn't tell Peter to be stronger, be more disciplined, be more persistent, be more Peter
- Jesus didn't start with Peter

## **Living a fresh start begins when we allow Jesus to take us back to the point where we went off-the-grid**

- Off-The-Grid = Basically means not being connected or not being heard from for some time
- Driving through Dallas in early 1980s and took multiple wrong exit ramps
- It took some time, but I had to retrace my mistakes to get back on the route desired

## **Living a fresh start begins when we allow Jesus to take us back to the point where we went off-the-grid**

- Peter took three wrong exit ramps that evening and found himself so far away that he could hear a rooster crow

## Living a fresh start begins when we allow Jesus to take us back to the point where we went off-the-grid

- We tend to try and hide our failures, hurts, pains and so forth hoping they will just go away
- We put them in a room in our heart, shut the door tight with a **NEVER** disturb sign on it
- But it is always there, and it never goes away because we have never dealt with it properly
- We have pushed it around, but not allow it to heal

## **Living a fresh start begins when we allow Jesus to take us back to the point where we went off-the-grid**

- So, Jesus isn't being mean to Peter, he is leading him to the place where a fresh start can begin
- Not just between Jesus and Peter, but between Peter and the rest of the disciples as well

## **Living a fresh start begins when we allow Jesus to take us back to the point where we went off-the-grid**

- By the third “Peter do you love me?” question, Jesus brings Peter to the point where he opens his failure/hurt door in his heart, and he is grieved because of his acts of denial
- Peter understands and he is finally listening to the words of Jesus

# **Our love for Jesus is the only answer to living in consistent, constant companionship with our Savior, Jesus Christ**

- Does your spiritual service and life flow from your love and devotion to Christ?
- I'm seen Christians whose spiritual service and lives flowed from their self-discipline, from their strength and courage

# **Our love for Jesus is the only answer to living in consistent, constant companionship with our Savior, Jesus Christ**

- They knew more scripture than others
- Their attendance at church was greater than others
- Their work for the Kingdom exceeded other
- They have gone on mission trips

## **Our love for Jesus is the only answer to living in consistent, constant companionship with our Savior, Jesus Christ**

- But there was little love for Jesus and the result was their face looked like they had been sucking on lemons all day
- Oliver Wendell Holmes, “I might have entered the ministry if certain clergymen I knew had not looked and acted so much like undertakers.”

# Our love for Jesus is the only answer to living in consistent, constant companionship with our Savior, Jesus Christ

- **Matthew 5:13 NLT** “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.
- We are to be a flavor enhancing Christian for Jesus

# Our love for Jesus is the only answer to living in consistent, constant companionship with our Savior, Jesus Christ

- We must pay attention to the difference between Jesus' word for love and the one Peter used
  - Jesus used the word **agape** which means love that is perfect and pure; selfless and active; putting others before self

**Our love for Jesus is the only answer to living in consistent, constant companionship with our Savior, Jesus Christ**

- **John 3:16 NIV** For God so loved (**agape**) the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

# Our love for Jesus is the only answer to living in consistent, constant companionship with our Savior, Jesus Christ

- Peter's response uses the word **phileo** which means to "to be a friend or friendly towards"
- Jesus, "Peter do you love me with all of your heart, your mind, your strength?"
  - Peter, "I love you Jesus like a brother."

# Our love for Jesus is the only answer to living in consistent, constant companionship with our Savior, Jesus Christ

- **Vs 15** “Simon son of John, do you **agape** me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I **phileo** you.”
- **Vs 16** “Simon son of John, do you **agape** me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I **phileo** you.”
- **Vs. 17** “Do you **phileo** me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I **phileo** you.”

## **Our love for Jesus is the only answer to living in consistent, constant companionship with our Savior, Jesus Christ**

- Jesus, “Peter do you love me 100%?” Peter, “I love you 60%.”
- Peter was finally being honest with Jesus, no boasting or pride or self
- This is what grieved him so to see how far he has missed the mark of love
- I can't say that Jesus, but I really want to get there

# **Our love for Jesus is the only answer to living in consistent, constant companionship with our Savior, Jesus Christ**

- I don't think Peter ever imaged the next words from Jesus' lips
  - Peter, take you phileo love for me and “Feed my lambs”, “Feed my sheep”, “Be a shepherd of my flock”
  - Be a shepherd of the King and not the king

- Vs **18-19 NIV** 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

## **Peter I'm going to get you to the point where you will joyfully agape me**

- Hear Jesus say, “Don't follow Peter, Peter, follow me.”
- Our purpose for living as Children of God is to bring praise, glory, honor and fame to Jesus Christ with our lives here on earth
- We can only do this consistently and constantly when the decisions of our lives are motivated by the love Jesus has for us and our love for Him

- How/Why can we forgive? Because Christ loves and has forgiven us
- How/why can we control or controlling? Because Christ loves us and has our lives in His hands
- How/why can we control fear? Because Christ loves us and has our lives in His hands
- How/why can we control the way our mind works? Because Christ loves us and has given us new one

## **We sing a chorus at times called “Jesus, All For Jesus”**

- Jesus, all for Jesus, all I am and have and every hope to be
- All of my ambitions, hopes and plans – I surrender these into your hands
- For it's only in, your will that I am free
- Jesus, all for Jesus, all I am and have and every hope to be

# **Jesus, All For Jesus**

(2 Times)

Jesus, All for Jesus

All I am and have and ever hope to be.

(2 Times)

All of my ambitions, hopes and plans  
I surrender these into Your hands.

(2 Times)

For it's only in Your will that I am free.



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**JOHN 21:15-19**

## Announcements

- Wednesday, 7:00
  - Video is “Anger Must Fall”
- Food distribution sheets must be in by this Wednesday with distribution next Wednesday. See Herb Moore for more information.



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