

MISSING THE MARK



Restored and Redirected

John 21:15-19

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." 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."

John 21:15-19

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!”

“Do you love me?”



*His love for Adam's cursed race,
For every broken soul.
No sin too slight to overlook,
No crime too great to carry,
All mingled in this poisoned cup,
And yet He drank it all,
The Savior drank it all.*

(Gethsemane - Stuart Townend)

We are told that Peter is "hurt" or "grieved" because "Jesus asked him the third time."

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"This was now *the third time* Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead." (v. 14)

“The risen Lord, revealed to his disciples for a ‘third time,’ as if to prove beyond doubt the reality of his resurrection, now questions Peter’s love for yet a ‘third time’ as if to elicit proof beyond doubt of the reality of that love.”

(J. Ramsey Michaels)

“Do you love me more than these?”



"Do you love me more than you love these other disciples?"

“Do you love me more than you love these other disciples?”

“Do you love me more than you love your boat and your nets, the instruments of your livelihood?”

“Do you love me more than you love these other disciples?”

“Do you love me more than you love your boat and your nets, the instruments of your livelihood?”

“Do you love me more than these other disciples—who are present right here near us—love me?”

Peter is done trusting himself first. Instead, his trust begins with Jesus.



“Feed my lambs.”
“Take care of my sheep.”



“Here is the secret of all Christian ministry—yours and mine, lay and ordained, full-time or part-time. It’s the secret of everything from being a quiet, back-row church attender to being a platform speaker at huge rallies and conferences. If you are going to do any single solitary thing as a follower and servant of Jesus, this is what it’s built on.

Somewhere, deep down inside, there is a love for Jesus, and though (goodness knows) you've let him down enough times, he wants to find that love, to give you a chance to express it, to heal the hurts and failures of the past, and give you new work to do."

(N.T. Wright)

John 21:9-10

When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

“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.”



Even a restored and redirected life will have challenge, disappointment, pain, and struggle.

“Follow me!”



The renewed invitation given to the restored Peter is to follow Jesus in resurrection power!

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We can never follow the way of Jesus by our own power. Only resurrection power, set aflame in us by the power of the Spirit, makes that possible.

Closing Reflections

Have you come to Jesus to have your life restored from sin and shame?

Closing Reflections

Are you open to Jesus giving your life new direction?
Into what kind of new work might God be calling you?

Closing Reflections

Invite the Spirit to prepare you for the moments and seasons when your restored and redirected life may include challenge, disappointment, or suffering.

Closing Reflections

Ask God to fill your life, to an overflowing capacity, with resurrection power as you seek to follow Jesus.

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