

7/29/25

Peter Restored
Jn. 21:15-19

Jesus has appeared to His disciples two times and told them to wait for Him in Galilee, but they got a little bored and impatient, so they went fishing.

When Jesus appeared He re-commissioned Peter for service in the gospel revealing four things to Peter.

- I.** Jesus revealed to Peter his pride. vs. 15
- II.** Jesus revealed to Peter his heart. vs. 16
- III.** Jesus revealed to Peter his restorations. vs. 17
- IV.** Jesus revealed to Peter his death. vs. 18-19

I. Jesus revealed to Peter his pride. vs. 15

- A.** The setting is after eating breakfast that Jesus had cooked, yet they were the fishermen. vs. 15a
 - 1.** The disciples had gone fishing at Peter's decision, "Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We are going with you also.'" vs. 3a-d
 - a.** Jesus had told them he would meet them at Galilee and they were waiting for Him. Matt. 26:32; Mk. 14:28; 16:7

- b.** Some have faulted the men for returning to fish, but Jesus did not rebuke them when He appeared.
- 2.** The disciples did not catch one fish all night by their own attempts, "They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing." vs. 3e-f
 - * Life would be different now after Jesus appeared to them the first time enabling and commissioning to preach the gospel, as they were in the room locked up by breathing the Holy Spirit on them! Jn. 20:19-23
- 3.** The disciples were unsuccessful in their own abilities, but Jesus was standing on the shore, but they did not know it was Jesus, "Then Jesus said to them, 'Children, have you any food?'" They answered "No." vs. 4-5
 - * The disciples knew every inch of the lake and all about fishing, yet nothing!
- 4.** And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish." vs. 6
 - a.** They caught nothing until the Lord gave them the imperative commanded, "cast your net on the right side", directing their work with the assurance of success "you will find some".

- * Service that is directed by the Lord is fruitful and supper natural!
- b. Peter dragged the net to land with a great catch of 153 fish and the net was not broken for the task. vs. 11
- 5. The disciples were in the same place Jesus had first called them to be a fishers of men.
 - a. Peter had to have recalled the similar occasion at the start of the ministry of Jesus, as He told Peter to launch out to the deep for the catch, but Peter declared they had toiled all night and caught nothing, nevertheless at “Your word I will let down the net.” Lk. 5:4-5
 - b. The catch was so great that the net began to break and the boat began to sink, but their partners help them and filled both boats. Lk. 5:6-7
 - c. Peter saw it and fell down at the knees of Jesus and said, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord”. Lk. 5:8
 - d. Jesus told Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” Lk. 5:10d-f
- 6. The disciples had not recognized the voice of the Lord except for John, he said, “It is the Lord”, Peter hearing the words of John swam to shore. vs. 7
 - * I can’t help thinking words of Jesus rang in Peter’s head at this point convicting

- him, “Without Me, you can do nothing”. Jn. 15:5e
- 7. The disciples were served by the Lord breakfast, nothing had change, though Jesus was in His glorified body, He was still serving them. vs. 9-10
 - * A reminder of the Passover supper revealing their pride. Jn. 13
- 8. This was the third time Jesus appeared to them. vs. 14
 - a. The first to the ten. Jn. 20:19-23
 - b. The second to the eleven. Jn. 20:24-29
- B. The Lord Jesus asked Peter after they had eaten breakfast a question before the other six disciples, “Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” vs. 15b-e
 - 1. The Lord Jesus called him Simon that means “hearing” instead of Peter “petros” rock.
 - a. Peter had to examine his love for Jesus in view of his previous boasting above the others disciples.
 - b. Peter had need of hearing what the Lord was about to say to him, in view of his previous proud declaration.
 - c. Peter had need of recognizing his pride of self confidence that resulted in his failure.

- d. Peter had need of hearing what the Lord was about to ask him, if he truly loved Jesus. as well as the other six disciples!
- 2. The question of Jesus to Peter was did he “love Jesus more than these”.
 - a. The word Jesus used for love is “agapao” identifying God’s divine love, the highest love, a present indicative.
 - 1) The word is used by John to declare the incredible love for the sinful world and sending His Son. Jn. 3:16
 - 2) The source of agape love is God alone and only Christians can possess “agape love”, but can refuse to yield to God’s agape love.
 - 3) The agape love of God is distinct and different than the kind of love the natural man exhibits, emotional, sexual or family love.
 - 4) God’s agape love will govern and blossom our emotional love “phileo” to not manipulated people, our sexual love “eros” to not misuse and pervert being single or betraying it being married and not neglect or abuse our family love “storge”, but lovingly provide and protect the family according to God’s word!
 - 5) Remember Peter told Jesus he was ready to die for him before his denial of Jesus.

- b. The reference to “these” is not clear in the text, there are three possibilities.
 - 1) The reference could be if Peter loved Jesus more than the boats and nets that provided Peter’s livelihood.
 - 2) The reference could be if Peter loved Jesus more than the fish they had drawn in that represented Peter financial security.
 - 3) The reference could be if Peter loved Jesus more than the other disciples, who Peter had declared that even if all of them forsook Jesus, he would not, in fact he would lay down his life for Jesus. Mk. 14:29; Jn. 13:37
 * I believe that this is the correct interpretation based on Peter’s previous boast to Jesus of laying down his life for Him
- 3. The word Jesus uses for love as we have stated is “agapao”, God’s divine love.
 - a. It is not of human origin.
 - b. It is not of human ability.
 - c. It is not able to be faked.
- C. The disciple Simon Peter answered Jesus in two ways, “He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” vs. 15f-i
 - 1. Simon Peter answered in the affirmative, “Yes, Lord”. vs. 15f-h
 - a. Simon knew that he loved Jesus.

- b. Simon also knew he could not say he loved Jesus more than the others.
- c. Simon acknowledged Jesus as his Lord.
- 2. Simon Peter declared Jesus knew he loved Him, “You know that I love You.” vs. 15i
 - a. The word know “oida” that means to percieve and know thouroughly that he loved Him, the perfect indicative.
 - b. The word “phileo” to be fond off, a love of emotion and affection, not the word “agapao” for Peter had denied Jesus three times and did not want to make the same mistake again, of overestimating himself.
 - c. Simon Peter had to come and recognize his pride and self-sufficiency.
 - c. Simon Peter knew that Jesus knew the heart of all men. Jn. 2:24-25
 - d. Simon Peter knew that the Lord knew his own inability apart from Him.
- D. The Lord Jesus commissioned Simon Peter, “He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” vs. 15j-k
 - 1. Jesus simply said, “Feed My lambs”.
 - a. The word feed “bosko” means to tend watch over, pasture or graze, an imperative command in the present durative.
 - b. The word is used of the swine feeding that were possessed by the demons and perished in the sea. Matt. 8:30, 33; Mk. 5:11, 14; Lk. 8:32, 34, 15:15

- 2. The ones to be fed were lambs.
 - a. The lambs “arnion” means younger lambs, to indicate those Christians who are young in need of nourishment to develop, grow and mature spiritually.
 - * The word appears 30 times in the New Testament, once in John, the other 29 are in the book of Revelation, 28 for Jesus, only on for the False Prophet!
 - b. The primary and most important responsibility of a Pastor is to feed the saints, and by recognizing their own weakness depend on the Lord! 2Cor. 12:9; Eph. 4:12-13
 - c. The lambs belonged to the Lord not Peter or any Pastor.

Illustration

Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged his pride after he regain his sanity and declared that their was a God in heaven who did as He willed and the entire earth is reputed as nothing and no one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What are You done”. Dan. 4:34-35

Jesus revealed the pride of Peter!

II. Jesus revealed to Peter his heart. vs. 16

- A. The Lord Jesus addressed Simon Peter a second time, He said to him again a second time,

“Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” vs. 16a-d

1. The Lord asked Simon if he loved Him.
 - a. The question must of made Peter a bit uncomfortable having just answered, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love you.”
 - b. The question Jesus was asking may seem to be asking the same thing, but it is not.
2. The Lord was now asking Peter if he loved Him without comparing Him to any other.
 - a. The questions that are addressed by God are not in that God know the answer.
 - b. The questions to Simon Peter were that Peter would know his own heart.
 - 1) The Lord led the children of Israel for forty years in the wilderness to humble them, to test them that **they** might know what was in their heart, whether they would keep His commandment or not, God already knew. Deut. 8:2
 - 2) The heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, therefore only God knows the depths of its depravity as well as the only one able to reveal it to man. Jer. 17:9-10
 - 3) David says, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.” Ps. 139:23-24

3. The word Peter again speaks “You know “oida”, to percieve and know thouroughly that he loved Him, the perfet indicative.
 - b) Jesus used “agapao” love, divine love and once again Peter used the word love “phileo” to be fond and have an emotinal affection for Jesus, not agpe love.
 4. The word Jesus used for love is again “agapao”.
 - a. God’s divine love. Jn. 3:16
 - b. God’s gift to the believer. Rom. 5:5
 - c. God’s fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22
 - * Yet a believer can be called, anointed, have gifts of the Spirit and not be open to the fruit of the Spirit, agape love!
- B.** The disciple Simon Peter answered Jesus in two way again. vs. 16e-h
1. Peter affirmed his love for Jesus, “He said to Him, “Yes, Lord”. vs. 16 e-g
 - a. Peter was sure of his love for Jesus above any other.
 - b. Peter re-affirmed that Jesus was his Lord.
 2. Peter declared to Jesus He knew he loved Him, “You know that I love You.” vs. 16h
 - a. Peter used the same word again “oida” to percieve and know thouroughly that he loved Him, the perfet indicative.
 - * Peter knew that there was no creature hidden from His sight, but all is naked

- and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account. Heb. 4:13
- b. Peter used the same word again, “phileo” to be fond of, a love of emotion and affection, not the word “agapao”, understanding the potential of evil from his own heart and not to think himself more highly than he ought to think. 1Cor. 8:1-2

C. The Lord Jesus commissioned Simon Peter for the second time, “He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” vs. 16i-j

1. The word tend “poimaino” and means to tend and shepherd to sheep in the flock, the church.
 - a. This is a command in the present imperative again.
 - b. Feeding is part of a shepherd's duty as already stated in his first declaration of his commission to grow, develop and mature spiritually. 1Pet. 5:2,
 * “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” Heb. 13:17
 - c. Leading sheep is what a shepherd does, you drive cattle, but you lead sheep!

- d. Protecting the sheep is also the responsibility of the shepherd.
2. The word for sheep is also different from the first time.
 - a. The term sheep “probaton” older sheep to distinguish from the younger lambs in verse 15.
 - b. Jesus looks upon His lambs and sheep with love and compassion and so should the shepherd over them in His church.
 - c. The apostle Paul communicates this responsibility to the Ephesian elder of shepherding the flock of God. Acts 20:28
 - d. Peter in his last epistle tells the undershepherds to shepherd the flock of God that is among them and how that was to be done. 1Pet. 5:2-4
 - 1) Not feeding themselves and scattering the flock. Jer. 23:1-6; Ezk. 34:1-10
 - 2) But after the example and love of God as He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young. Is. 40:11
 - 3) Paul was this type of shepherd gladly spent and being spent. 2Cor. 12:14-15

Illustration

When Nathan came to David and declared the story of the men who took the little lamb of the man, slew it

and ate it, he was enraged and when Nathan declare, “You are the man”, he was cut to the heart!

Jesus revealed to Peter his heart!

III. Jesus revealed to Peter his restoration. vs. 17

- A. The Lord Jesus addressed Simon Peter a third time, “He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” vs. 17a-d
 - 1. The Lord Jesus asking Peter for the third time had to of reminded him of his three-fold denial of Jesus.
 - a. Not to condemn Peter.
 - b. Not to just make Peter feel bad.
 - c. But that Peter not depend on himself, but on Jesus, as a branch abiding in the vine.
 - d. And that the other disciples acknowledge the restoration of Peter by Jesus.
 - 2. The Lord used the word “phileo” this time as He addressed Simon.
 - a. Jesus came down to the level of Peter.
 - b. Jesus excepted Peter on the level of his ability, but that was not his full potential.
 - c. Jesus would enable Peter in his commitment of love despite his limitations. Phil. 4:13
- B. The response of Simon Peter to the third time Jesus asked him the question, “Peter was

grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” vs. 17e-f

- 1. Peter was grieved and made sorrowful because Jesus had asked him three times.
 - a. The word grieved “lupeo” means to make sorrowful, to be vexed or annoyed by the question about his love for Jesus.
 - b. The word is used of the rich young ruler who went away grieved at the words of Jesus and the Kingdom because he had many possessions. Mk. 10:22
- 2. Peter without any doubt, as we have noted, thought about his three-fold denial of Jesus.
 - a. Interesting how past sins and failures can cut us to the heart or be revived in our minds instantly when something similar occurs or a similar topic is brought up.
 - b. Satan, others and ourselves are so quick to condemn us, but Jesus has forgiven us and cast those sins as far as east from the west. Ps. 103:12
 - 1) Paul declares, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Rom. 8:1
 - 2) Some manuscript omit the last portion, but it appears in verse four again.
 - c. Jesus was not attempting to condemn Peter nor make him feel bad, but He was declaring to him that he was forgiven for

his three-fold denial and confirmed by the three-fold commission.

* Jesus put Peter publicly before all present, placing him in a place of responsibility!

C. The man Simon Peter answered Jesus in two ways for the third time. vs. 17g-j

- 1.** Peter answered to Jesus, “And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things.” vs. 17g-h
 - a.** For the third time Peter called Him Lord.
 - b.** For the third time Peter declared that Jesus knows all things.
 - c.** Peter said “You know “oida” all things”, the perfect active indicative, to perceive and know thoroughly he loved Him.
- 2.** Peter declared that the Lord knew he loved Him, “You know that I love you.” vs. 17j
 - a.** This is the third time Peter declared his love using a different word for know, the word “ginosko” not “oida”, it means to know by experience having been a disciple of Jesus for 3 ½ years.
 - b.** Peter was saying Jesus knew by experience the fondness and emotional affection of Peter by using the word “phileo” for his love, a present active indicative.
 - c.** This is the third times Peter used the word “phileo” not ‘agapao’.

d. Peter had come to grips with himself as a sinner like any other without any delusions of self!

D. The Lord Jesus commissioned Simon Peter for the third time, Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.” vs. 17k-l

- 1.** The word feed “bosko” is the same as in verse fifteen, to pasture, tend or graze.
 - a.** This is the third present active imperative command.
 - * The purpose of the church is to perfect the saints by teaching them the word of God in order to equip them for the service of ministry and come to a state of maturity, through Pastor-teachers and other anointed men of the church. Eph. 4:11-16
 - b.** Young believers are to desire the sincere or unadulterated milk of the word as newborn babes to grow. 1Pet. 2:2
- 2.** The word sheep “probaton” is the same as in verse sixteen to distinguish from young lambs in verse fifteen, but probably indicated the entire flock of the church.
 - a.** The word is in the diminutive or endearment form, expressing love and affection.
 - b.** All the lambs and sheep belong to Jesus, stated three times. vs. 15, 16, 17
 - c.** All who hear His voice and respond.

- d. All who have repented from their sins.
- e. All who are taught by His Holy Spirit.

Illustration

David was restored by God's grace through genuine repentance and time, but lived with the consequences.

Jesus revealed the restoration of Peter!

IV. Jesus revealed to Peter to time of his death. vs. 18-19

- A. Peter was a man who did and went where he desired before Christ. vs. 18a-d
 - 1. The accuracy of the statement is guaranteed by the phrase, "Most assuredly, I say to you". vs. 18a-b
 - a. The phrase "Most assuredly" as we have state often is "Amem Amen".
 - 1) At the beginning of the sentence it means what is about to be declared is of the upmost importance, pay attention.
 - 2) Every time it appears; it come out of the mouth of Jesus.
 - b. The phrase "I say to you" are the very words and mind of Jesus who is God.
 - 1) This is the highest authority one can hear, the Incarnate Christ, who is infallible and inerrant.

- 2) Jesus never quoted past Rabbis, only the Scriptures, he was and is the true author of His revelation!
- 2. The description Peter without Christ Jesus, doing what he wished, "when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished." vs. 18c-d
 - a. The home is the foundation for a child's future, most decisions for Christ are make by children.
 - b. The company and friends children keep will bent them towards a certain direction and practices.
 - c. The education and value system they embrace will mold and shape them.
 - d. The world's attraction and temptations will destroy them.
- B. Peter under his new life in Christ would be a man who would desire God's will and be martyred for his faith, "but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." vs. 18e-g
 - 1. The conversion of Peter was genuine.
 - 2. The call of Peter would be till his old age.
 - 3. The commission of Peter was from Jesus.
 - 4. The commitment of Peter's love unto death was authentic.

- a. Tertullian and other attest Peter was crucified at Rome, under Emperor Nero 64-68 A.D.
- b. Origen says Peter requested to be crucified upside-down for he did not think himself worthy of dying the same way as Christ.

C. Peter would glorify God in death. vs. 19a-b

- 1. The commentary certifies the statement to be the correct interpretation of the previous, "This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God."
 - a. The death of Peter would bring glory to God.
 - b. The Scriptures tell us God is faithful in all things.
 - 1) Faithful in our trials and testings, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." 1Cor. 10:13
 - a)) I love this verse because it guarantees I can be victorious every time, if I depend on Jesus!
 - b)) I hate this verse because when I fail, I have no one to blame but me!

- 2) Faithful in our sufferings, "Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator." 1Pet. 4:19
- 2. The declaration is the future prophecy of about the death of Peter.
 - a. God alone knows the future.
 - b. God alone reveals the future.
 - c. God alone is sufficient for the future.
 - d. God was using John to write under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Inerrant and Infalibly!
- D. Peter was to keep his eyes on Jesus, "And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me." vs. 19c-e**
 - 1. Peter was not to live life by his feelings.
 - 2. Peter was not to make decisions based on circumstances or situations.
 - 3. Peter was not to keep his eyes on any man.
 - 4. Peter was not to follow the most popular teacher.
 - 5. Peter was not to judge God's love for him on anything except the cross.
 - 6. Peter was to remember the words of Jesus.
 - * "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever

loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." Mk. 8:34d-35

Illustration

Paul declared, "I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2Tim. 4:6-7

Jesus revealed to Peter the time of his death!

Conclusion

Jesus revealed four things to Peter in his re-commission.

- I. Jesus revealed to Peter his pride!
- II. Jesus revealed to Peter his heart!
- III. Jesus revealed to Peter his restoration!
- IV. Jesus revealed to Peter his time of death!