

Restoration

Psalm 71

20

Though you have made me see troubles,
many and bitter,
you will restore my life again;
from the depths of the earth
you will again bring me up.

21

You will increase my honor
and comfort me once more.

Restoration: The act of returning something to a former owner, place or condition.

Story: Little Bull Dozer.

There is something special about seeing something old restored to life again.

People who restore old cars have a special ability to see what others drive right past.

1. A Restorer Seeks

- They spot them in fields..
- Behind barns...
- Under old trees...
- In small towns all across America...
- They know where to look...
- And they know what to look for...

Luke 15

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: **4** “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? **5** And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6** and goes home. Then he calls his

friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' **7** I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

- Jesus is the Restorer of souls who Seeks after his Sheep...

2. A Restorer Finds

- And when they find it they have the ability to see past the rust... the old paint that is peeling off... the missing fenders and wrecked bumpers...
- They see potential even though the mice are the only ones that have been in it in the last couple decades...
- A Restorer has this thing called Vision...
- They can visualize all that old stuff made new again...

Luke 15

Jesus continued:

8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? **9** And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' **10** In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

3. A Restorer Commits to the Task

In towns all across America there are barns and garages with cars and trucks that someone had every intention of restoring but didn't for some reason manage to finish.

- This is because Restoration is costly
- It costs time
- It costs money
- It takes know how
- It takes having the right tools

- It isn't as easy as most people hope it would be
- The result of this is many unfinished projects
- But for the person who commits to finish the reward is amazing...
- Can I tell you we serve a God who is Committed to our Restoration...

Luke 15

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. **14** After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. **16** He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18** I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' **20** So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. **24** For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Thou the Son was filthy...

Even thou he smelt horrible...

Even thou he was ungroomed and unkept...

When the Father put his robe on him...

and put his ring on him...

and put his sandals on him...

He was saying to his son, I am committed to Restoring you Fully...
And when you saw him he no longer looked like a slum...
He now looked like the one who clothed him...
From a distance, He looked like his Father...

The same is true with us
When we Repent of our sins and give our hearts fully to Christ, we no longer look like that abandoned old, beat up, forsaken person...
There is a New Owner with a Vision for Restoration
The Restoration has begun...
New Life begins to shine...
The Old Life is done away with...

2 Corinthians 5:17

“He that is in Christ is a new creation, old things are done away with and all things become new.”

4. He is committed to our Restoration all the way to the end...

Philippians 1:6

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”