



## Stories that Change Jason Shawa “A Restoration Story” September 3, 2023

**Key Verses:** Matthew, 1 & 2 Peter

**Key Thought:** Restoration is defined as “the idea of bringing back to its starting point; bringing something back to normal conditions and stability.” Whether one is guilty of committing sin or is a victim of sin that has been committed against them, restoration is possible on the other side of that sin. Sin does not cancel one’s call and purpose in life. God is not done. He doesn’t waste His callings. We can learn what restoration looks like by looking at the life of Peter throughout the books of Matthew and 1 & 2 Peter.

### Points to Consider:

- Remember your calling. (Matt 4)
- There will be moments of failure. (Matt 14:22-31 – Even when our eyes are fixed on Jesus, the enemy can distract us.)
- Even in knowing Jesus, we may not always see His plan. (Matt 16:13)
- Don’t miss the purpose in the God ordained moments. (Matt 17:4-5 – Peter was caught up in his desire to “do”, missing God’s purpose for him to simply “be” in His presence.)
- Arrogance, complacency, control, and distance lead to denial. (Peter is a great example of one struggling with a head-heart disconnect. His heart was all in, but he didn’t always use his head wisely as a Christ-follower.)
- Points to **remember** during the restoration process:
  - i. Who you are in Christ
  - ii. God is more powerful than the enemy
  - iii. God is on your side, interceding on your behalf
  - iv. God wants to use your failures to help others
  - v. To share what you have learned
  - vi. Restoration results in change
  - vii. God has a calling on your life
  - viii. God will give you forgiveness and grace
- Peter’s story ends in complete restoration when Jesus entrusts him to “Tend my sheep” as a testament of his love for Jesus. (John 21:1-17)



### **Discussion Prompts:**

- Compare your story to that of Peter. Are there any points to which you can relate?
- Upon reflection, has God revealed a need for restoration in your life? Is anything holding you back from experiencing restoration that will allow you to fulfill the purpose God has for your life?
- Are their personal failures or lessons learned in your life that God wants you to share for the purpose of helping others?
- Close with prayer for one another.