



11.24.2025

## Summary

Join Pastor Stephanie as she explores and teaches how God's love doesn't just bring us back to where we were, but restores us to where we should have been. Through the parable of the two lost sons and the restoration of Peter, the speaker demonstrates that both "sinners" and "saints" equally need God's restorative love and relationship over legalism. Listen and be challenged as believers to extend the same restorative love we've received to others.

## Top Points Made

1. **Restoration goes beyond recovery** - God's love doesn't just restore us back to where we were, but to where we should have been to begin with.
2. **Understanding cultural context matters** - The parable of the prodigal son was far more shocking to the original audience than to modern readers because of Middle Eastern honor culture.
3. **Both sons were lost** - The parable isn't just about the prodigal son, but about two lost sons - one who broke the law and one who kept it, but both lacked relationship with the father.
4. **The father's shame** - The father took on enormous cultural shame by running to meet his son, protecting him from the village's rejection (kazaza ceremony).
5. **The older brother's failure** - The elder son should have been the mediator but instead stood in judgment, representing the Pharisees who kept the law but missed relationship.
6. **Jesus addressed both audiences** - The parable spoke to both the "sinners" Jesus was fellowshiping with and the Pharisees who criticized him.
7. **Relationship over religion** - God desires relationship, not just law-keeping. Both the

law-keeper and law-breaker need restoration.

8. **Peter's restoration was intentional** - Jesus deliberately recreated the fishing scene where he first called Peter, restoring him after his three denials with three affirmations of love.
9. **Upgraded calling** - Peter wasn't just restored to being a "fisher of men" but elevated to "feed my sheep" - a shepherding, nurturing role.
10. **The apple illustration** - Sin (represented by the apple in Eden) already contained God's solution (the star representing Christ's birth), showing God had the answer inside the problem from the beginning.
11. **Our responsibility** - We are commanded to love others with the same restorative love God has shown us, extending it to both saints and sinners.

## Quotations

1. "God's love is like that, but even more so, He doesn't just restore back to where it was, but He restores back to where it should have been to begin with."
2. "The father [of the two lost sons] took on the shame that should have been on the son once he got there. Jesus took on the shame on that cross."
3. "This is not about law, keeping it or not keeping it. This is about relationship. All that Father wanted was relationship."
4. "I already had the plan when the apple was created... I already had the answer inside of the problem. Sin entered, but then so did Christ."
5. "My command is this: Love each other the way I have loved you. That is the restorative power of God's love, the way God has loved us, the way Jesus loved us, that restorative power, that is now our responsibility as well."
6. "For us to hold a grudge after all that Jesus did, for us to be angry with someone, for us to not forgive, that is a shame, a big dishonor."
7. "Keep in mind you are to love as Jesus loved."