

## **Crashing through Quitting Points** **Recurring Inconsistency - Peter**

Today we are going to continue by looking at another **QUITTING POINT** that I'm calling "Recurring Inconsistency"

What does it mean to be inconsistent?

**Inconsistency occurs when our beliefs, arguments, confessions, and actions do not line up.**

Today we are focusing on the Apostle Peter...

He was an amazing leader in the Church!

He was chosen by Jesus for his innate leadership abilities...

Of all the apostles Peter is the one most seem to identify with the most...

He would say something profound...

- "You're the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

And then he would follow that with an attempt to correct Jesus...

- "You're not going to die..."
- "Get behind me Satan!"

The Scriptures give us a clear picture to Peter's downward spiral to his **QUITTING POINT**...

Let's look at his downward transgression...

→ **Pic 1 - Downward Spiral - 1**



Luke 22:24 (ESV) — A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.

Luke 22:31–32 (ESV) — "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Proverbs 16:18 (NLT) — Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

→ **Pic 2 - Downward Spiral - 2**



Luke 22:33–34 (ESV) — Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." Jesus said, "I

**tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”**

**→ Pic 3 – Downward Spiral – 3**



**Luke 22:39–40 (ESV) — And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.”**

**Jesus went further into the garden to pray by himself...**

**When He returned He found His three main leaders, Peter, James, and John asleep...**

**Matthew 26:41 (ESV) — Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”**

**Inconsistency occurs when our beliefs, arguments, confessions, and actions do not line up.**

**→ Pic 4 – Downward Spiral – 4**



**Luke 22:56–57 (ESV) — Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, “This man also was with him.” But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.”**

**→ Pic 5 – Downward Spiral – 5**



**Luke 22:59–62 (ESV) — And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to**

**him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.**

**... Later, after the resurrection, Jesus met with Peter...**

**I’m sure He forgave him ...**

**But Peter just couldn’t forgive himself...**

**How could he lead others when he is so unreliable?**

**How could he be counted on when he is so inconsistent?**

**So what does Peter do?**

**He returns to his old trusted routines...**

**John 21:3a (ESV) — Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” ...**

**Peter’s downward path to his QUITTING POINT seemed final to him...**

**NOTE: I called it “final failure”**

**→ Pic 5 – Downward Spiral – 5**



## **Failure isn’t Final!**

**So how did Peter CRASH through his quitting point?**

**Better... How do WE CRASH THROUGH our quitting point?**

### **1. Recognize the Empty Boat**

**John 21:2–5 (ESV) — Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.”**

**As Dr. Phil has famously said...**

**“How’s that working out for you?”**

**“Until the pain to remain the same becomes greater than the pain to change we will never change.”**

**1. Recognize the Empty Boat.**

### **2. Return to Jesus**

**John 21:6–8 (ESV) — He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast**

**it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. 8 The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.**

**Why did Peter jump into the water and swim to Jesus?**

- **Impetuous nature ... Maybe**
- **Thought he might walk on water? ... Doubt it**

**At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry He was teaching by the Sea of Galilee...**

**The people were pressing in trying to hear Him better...**

**So Jesus stepped into one the boat at the shore...**

**Luke 5:3–6 (ESV) — Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.**

**Luke 5:8 (ESV) — But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”**

**Jesus told him, “Peter, from now on you are going to be fishing for men.”**

**Jeremiah 15:19a (ESV) — Therefore thus says the LORD: “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me”...**

**Matthew 11:28 (NLT) — Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.**

**1. Recognize the Empty Boat.**

**2. Return to Jesus.**

**3. Realize the Actual Problem**

**John 21:15–17 (ESV) — 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.**

**ἀγάπη (agape) – God’s Love**

**φιλέω (phileo) – Friendship Love**

**1<sup>st</sup> Question...**

Jesus asks,  
“Do you (agape) me more than these?”

Peter replies,  
“Yes, Lord; you know that I (phileo) you.”

What does Jesus mean when he asks Peter, “Do you love me more than these?”

- ...more than these fish?
- ...more than these nets?
- ...more than these boats?
- ...more than these friends?

Jesus is calling out to you today,

- Do you love me more than these?
- ...your job
- ...your “stuff”
- ...your family

Jesus is ready to restore you to His call on your life, but it will be done on His terms, not yours!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Question...**

Jesus asks,  
“Simon, son of John, do you (agape) me?”

Peter replies,  
“Yes, Lord; you know that I (phileo) you.”

**3<sup>rd</sup> Question...**

Jesus asks,  
“Simon, son of John, do you (phileo) me?”

Peter, grieved, replies,  
“Lord, you know everything; you know that I (phileo) you.”

Why THREE TIMES?

- Some have said because Peter denied three times

I believe the actual problem is what Jesus was attempting to get Peter to see...

**The Actual Problem...**

**Peter didn't have a consistency problem, he had a love problem.**

Mark 12:30 (ESV) — And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

John 14:23 (ESV) — Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

**1. Recognize the Empty Boat.**

**2. Return to Jesus.**

**3. Realize the Actual Problem.**

**4. Reclaim your Calling**

*In the previous section Jesus asked Peter THREE QUESTIONS to reveal to Peter the limitation of his love for Jesus.*

*But Jesus also RESTORES Peter to his THREE PURPOSES*

**First, back in verse 15 ...**

**John 21:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> ... He said to him, "Feed my lambs."

*The word used for "lambs" is "little lambs" or babes in Christ.*

**Nourish them!**

*Every believer has a ministry and every ministry is the Lord loving people through the minister.*

*The Lord has compassion on the brokenhearted*

**Second, in verse 16 ...**

**John 21:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> ... He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

*To "Tend" the flock means to "Shepherd my flock"*

**Shepherd them!**

*Lead the hurting out of the deserts of despair to the green pastures and quiet waters of God's love*

**Finally, in verse 17 ...**

**John 21:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> ... Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

*"Feed my sheep" means Feed or take care of ALL my sheep*

**Serve them!**

*Jesus was restoring Peter back to his PURPOSE knowing he would later be baptized by the Spirit into the fullness of God's agape love*

*But, the ministry can only be accomplished to the measure of our LOVE for the LORD.*

**So what happened?**

**1. Peter stayed the course!**

- He preached at Pentecost
- Healed the sick
- Raised the dead
- From that moment forward every time he heard the crow of a rooster, he fell to his knees, reminded of God's grace

**2. Peter died like Jesus,... almost.**

- In Rome, being taken to be crucified.
- "I am not worthy to die as my Lord, turn me upside down!"

**Crashing Through Quitting Points!  
Recurring Inconsistency – Peter  
John 21**

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**4. Reclaim your Calling**

**-Nourish them!**

**-Shepherd them!**

**-Serve them!**