

NOTES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE

SERMON SUMMARY

This sermon centers on the idea that resurrection faith changes how we interpret difficult moments in life. Using John 21 and Luke 5, it shows that Peter's decision to go fishing after Jesus' resurrection was not giving up, but returning to a place where he had already encountered God's power, forgiveness, and calling. The message challenges people not to let others label their lives by failure, pain, or past mistakes, but to trust that Jesus still meets people in familiar places and brings new life. Just as Peter remembered what God had done before, believers are called to face present struggles with confidence, declaring, "I'm not giving up—I'm getting up," because the resurrection proves that what looks finished is not over.

KEY POINTS

- What looks like failure may actually be faith.
 - Peter's decision to fish in John 21 is not necessarily him giving up—it may be him returning to a place where he knows Jesus has met him before.
- Past encounters with God build present confidence.
 - Peter can step into uncertainty because he remembers what happened in Luke 5, when Jesus first called him through a miracle in the boat.
- Do not let others define your life by pain, labels, or past mistakes.
 - People may interpret your circumstances one way, but God may be writing a resurrection story.
- God still rules in chaos and brokenness.
 - Just as God hovered over the deep in Book of Genesis Genesis, He is present in the deepest chaos of our lives and can create something new.
- Because of the resurrection, we choose to get up instead of give up.
 - The empty tomb means failure, grief, sin, and pain do not get the final word—Jesus does.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Have you ever had a moment where others saw failure, but you believed God was still working? What happened?**
2. **Why do you think Peter returned to fishing in John 21, and what does that reveal about how people respond after disappointment or uncertainty?**
3. **What “boat” or familiar place in your life reminds you of a past encounter with God’s faithfulness?**
4. **How do labels from other people—or from your own past—make it difficult to live by faith instead of fear?**
5. **What does “I’m not giving up—I’m getting up” look like in a real area of your life right now?**