

Community and Restoration

Associate Pastor Kailynn Aery

John 21

September 7, 2025

Community can be both rewarding and hard. Today we will see what lessons we can learn from Peter about the value of community in John 21.

John 21: 1-3 (ESV)

¹ After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you."

- **When we are in community with other believers, we must learn to stick with them even when mistakes are made**

- The disciples teach us that even when mistakes are made, we all still deserve community

John 21:7-8 (ESV)

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.

Matthew 4: 18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Commission - order or authorize someone to do or produce something.

- Jesus was again giving Peter authority to go out and produce other believers.

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- Jesus can recommission you and restore your calling

“Failure is never final with God.”

“You ask me what forgiveness means; it is the wonder of being trusted again by God in the place where I disgraced him.” - Rita Snowden

- Peter shows us that no matter how big the mistake is, Jesus can restore us.

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.

3 ways Jesus responds to Peter

- Feed My Lambs
- Tend My Sheep
- Feed My Sheep

- Our calling will always have us pointing people to Christ and caring for His people

Mark 12:30-31 (ESV)

“³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

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- The call on our lives to proclaim the gospel and to love our neighbors is critical because how we carry out that calling may be the determining factor on if someone will ever experience a relationship with Christ.

“The ministries of Peter and John would be different.

**Peter would be the shepherd, John the seer, Peter the preacher,
John the penman; Peter the foundational witness, John the faithful writer.**

**Peter would die in the agony and passion of martyrdom,
John would live on to great age and pass away in quiet serenity”**

- **We cannot compare our roles, our callings, our experiences, or our opportunities to anyone else’s.**