

The Restoration of Peter

JOHN 21:1-25



A Bold Affirmation of Commitment

- On the night of Jesus's betrayal, Peter affirmed that he would die with Christ, if necessary, but Jesus predicted that Peter would succumb to temptation and betray him soon thereafter.
JOHN 13:36–38; cf. vv. 31–33; MATT 26:31–35; LUKE 22:31–34
- Peter had already repeatedly failed to live up to his confession(s).
MATT 14:22–33; 16:13–28; cf. 17:1–8; MARK 14:32–42
- When we confess Christ as our Lord, we make the same confession as Peter, that we will live and die for Jesus. We understand that commitment better as we grow in the faith, but God expects us to keep our vow.
ROM 10:8–10; 1 TIM 6:12–16; HEB 4:14; 10:23; 1 JOHN 4:15–18

Peter Disowns His Lord

- At first, Peter “stood up” for Jesus, fighting the cohort who came to arrest the Lord, but he then abandoned Jesus—though he followed at a distance and entered the courtyard of the high priest.
JOHN 18:1–11, 15–16, 18 [Gr. *anthrakia*]; cf. LUKE 22:54–55
- When questioned, Peter thrice (passionately) denied Jesus.
LUKE 22:56–62 [Gr. *emblepō*]; cf. MARK 14:67; MATT 26:70, 72, 74; cf. v. 75
- We too—before and perhaps after conversion—have renounced Jesus and gone our own way. The “gaze” of Christ ought to break our hearts, but our response to this kind of sorrow determines our destiny.
2 COR 7:9–11; cf. GEN 4:3–16; 2 SAM 12:1–15; MATT 27:3–5; JOHN 21:1–25

Reproving, Repenting, and Reconciling

- Jesus recreated pivotal events in Peter’s discipleship—his initial call and his denial—to prepare for the questions that he was about to ask.
JOHN 21:2–13; cf. LUKE 5:1–11; JOHN 18:15–18; MATT 14:15–21 [cf. vv. 22–33]; 15:32–38; 16:5–12 [cf. vv. 13–23]; 26:26–29 [cf. vv. 31–35]
- Peter needed to reaffirm his love for Christ fully and personally.
JOHN 21:15–23; cf. MATT 26:33–34; LUKE 22:31–32; JOHN 13:36–38
- Christ confronts our denial. He “gazes” at us when we sin, “appears” and “speaks” to us, and “demands” that we come to terms with our failures, for only then will he forgive us and will we abandon our sins.
1 PET 2:21–25; JOHN 8:31–36; ROM 6:1–7; 12:1–2; MATT 10:32–33

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