

“Restoration”

Please turn to John 18:15, Pg. 904 in the Pew Bibles

The Lord Restores

I remember reading a book with the guy who discipled me, I believe it was by Laren Cunningham starting WYAM and one story was about a young man that had a ton of potential in ministry. He backslid, and in the book it said something like, he never returned to with the same zeal for the lord, basically saying he didn't fulfill the potential he once had... and even though Laren probably didn't mean it this way, I read it through the lens of disappointment.

I related to this young man. I was told by many of my “potential”.

“You have a clear calling on your life. God will use you to do amazing things” were all things I heard in my early years as a Christian.

I remember well my mentor saying, “Don't be that guy”. It was a good exhortation, but it caused fear in my soul... “Could I be that guy?” Could I blow it so badly that I wouldn't fulfill my potential? Would I be a disappointment? No way! I would never do such a thing!

And for some reason I believed it was because of Davids sin with Bathsheba that he wasn't able to build the temple; another example of someone not living into his potential. Which wasn't true. It was because he had shed too much blood and he wanted the temple to be built in peace so Solomon built it, and David even praised God that his son would be able to do it... BUT, as a young man I chose to believe a presupposition that I could blow it just enough to not live into my potential. To disappoint those who saw Potential in me, but beyond all that, disappoint God. Not me! No way would I ever do that!

I would imagine that's how Peter felt...

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Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.” Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” John 13:36-37

Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same. Matthew 26:31-35

This was me. Maybe it’s you. All I knew was I didn’t want to be ‘That guy’. Yet Peter did become that guy... And so did I. Yet, **The Lord Restores**

My story- **The Lord Restores**

Read John 18:15-18 & 25-27

And the Lord turned and looked at Peter... And he went out and wept bitterly. Luke 22:61-62

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Turn to John 21

Context- The Lord has risen! He has appeared to the disciples twice, yet, what do not get is how Peter was feeling. He had denied Jesus 3x. This is assumed, but I can imagine how he feels.

My story- Came back to Jesus with my head down. Single dad. I was convinced I was ‘that guy’. My knowledge of scripture and the grace of God was enough to know I didn’t lose my salvation, but just barely...

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I like the Message’s version of 1 Corinthians 3:15, *your part of the building will be torn out and started over. But you won’t be torn out; you’ll survive—but just barely.*

Peter must have been feeling something, because John, as he wraps up his Gospel, tells us the story of Peter’s restoration.

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Read John 21:1-6

-The tie to Peter’s conversion, Listen to Luke 5
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. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be *[fishers of]* men.” And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. Luke 5:3-11

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Much like we do EVERY Sunday; worship, confession, greeting, as to prepare the heart for God’s word, so Jesus was preparing Peter to be restored.

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Read 7-8. Swam a football field. I love this, because even when the work of restoration is being done, it’s not all sadness. You can have zeal!

My story, rolling up to church for Wednesday Service as a single dad, baby bag in hand, still beat up and dirty from a long day setting tile... Many probably couldn’t tell some deep healing was needed.

Restoration is a process...

The biblical meaning of the word "restoration" is to receive back more than has been lost to the point where the final state is greater than the original condition. The main point is that someone or something is improved beyond measure.

Unlike the regular dictionary meaning of "restoration," which is to return something back to its original condition, the biblical definition of the word has greater connotations that go above and beyond the typical everyday usage.¹

Let’s just focus on that first line

The biblical meaning of the word "restoration" is to receive back more than has been lost to the point where the final state is greater than the original condition.

This is the work of God. Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration; meta-narrative

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¹ <https://www.reference.com/world-view/biblical-meaning-word-restoration-436ed0eb2e3b3d0c>

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For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. Romans 8:29a

Imperative or indicative? Command or truth? TRUTH!

And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. Romans 8:30

It's not *if* God is restoring you to a state '*greater than the original*', but how.

Read John 21:9-14

Preparing Peter. Full stomach, chillin by the fire, and then...

Read John 21:15-17, exposit.

For each of Peter's denials, Jesus asks "Do you love me?" For each of his answers he gives him a command. "Be who I called you to be, a shepherd to my sheep" He replaces his shame with restoration; greater than the original. Where spiritual pride was, humility is now present. Where masked insecurities motivated, he now security in the lord.

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to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; Isaiah 61:3

It's not *if* God is restoring you to a state '*greater than the original*', but how.

Application

1. Be Honest
2. Ask your soul, "Soul, why are you feeling this way?"
3. Ask God, "God, how are you redeeming/ restoring me?"

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4. Be in community and be courageous enough to share your process

Finish My Story

John ends with this, Read John 21:25. His story lives on in us.

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Advent- HOPE

This gives us HOPE and as we start the Advent season, we know and believe the Lord is restoring us to a state greater than the original. This will be fulfilled at the second coming of Christ, when our restoration becomes our glorification and all things will be made right!

Please stand for a responsive reading.

Call- I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

Response-And in his word I put my hope.

Call- This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will return!

Response- May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope.

Call: In this life and the next...

ALL: JESUS IS OUR HOPE!!!

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Main Point The Lord Restores

Key Words- Fish 8x, do you love me 3x, you know that I love you, 3x

Key Verse- Vs. 17

FCF- Shame or guilt, disappointment

General God Key Words Command Truth Sin

John 21

Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

[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.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

[4] Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. [5] Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” [6] 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.

[9] When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. [10] Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” [11] So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so

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many, the net was not torn. [12] Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. [13] Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. [14] This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus and Peter

[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. [18] Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” [19] (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Jesus and the Beloved Apostle

[20] Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” [21] When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?” [22] Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” [23] So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”

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[24] This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

[25] Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.