

Sermon Follow-up | November 24, 2019

Eastside Sunday — Peter's Restoration

Focus Passage: John 21:15–22

Additional Context: John 6:66–68; 13:37–38; 18:10–11; 19–22; 25–27

Other Passages Referenced: John 10:3–5; 15:5

Sermon Recap: Looking back to earlier points in John's Gospel, we see that Peter declared a sacrificial and unwavering devotion to following Jesus, however Peter overestimated his faithfulness. When Peter encountered Jesus in John 21, Peter was coming off of a colossal failure (denying Jesus three times), while Jesus had just succeeded in His darkest "hour" of the cross. After their conversation, Peter confessed his failure to Jesus. Jesus then reassured Peter of forgiveness and reinstated Peter's call saying, "Follow me"—the words Jesus originally used to call Peter as His disciple. The rest of what we know about Peter's life and death shows that after his colossal failure and reinstatement, he succeeded in faithfully following Jesus, even to the point of being crucified himself. Each of us can also succeed in following Jesus as we confess our unfaithfulness/sin, receive His forgiveness, and renew our commitment to follow. Peter's conversation with Jesus provides three lessons for our own relationships with Jesus. First, DON'T QUIT. Second, DON'T COMPARE. Third, "JUST FOLLOW JESUS." To follow Jesus, we need to be intentional about carving out time to hear His voice through the written words of the Bible and through prayer and silence with other members of the body of Christ.

Connect: Making Honest Connections with One Another

- *How did God speak to you through the sermon or your Bible reading this week?*
- *Could you identify with the testimony about praying out loud in groups? Are you comfortable praying out loud in a group? If yes, how did you get started?*
- *The testimony about "spiritual formation" spoke of being formed more into the likeness of Jesus in terms of our relationships with God and others. Can you share a bit about any intentional spiritual formation you've experienced as the one being formed or the one helping form someone else?*

Grow: Listening to and Learning from God's Word – READ John 21:15–22 then also read the other context passages – John 6:66–68; 13:37–38; 18:10–11; 19–22; 25–27

1. The sermon mentioned that we are most often tempted to quit or give up after we have experienced a big personal failure. How do you see the lessons from the focus passage — don't quit ... don't compare yourself to others ... follow Jesus—speaking to your greatest failures or regrets?
2. What are some dangers of comparing ourselves with others?
3. What did you think of the practice of simply "listening" for God's prompting and then if a Scripture passage comes to mind, sharing it without commentary, trusting the Spirit to minister through it?
4. What do you think about the idea that the things that inform us play a role in forming us? Generally speaking, what is informing you most—God's word, other people, radio/television, ...?

Serve: Serving King Jesus and Others By Living Out and Letting Others Know God's Word

1. Will you listen for God to speak and share a Scripture or prayer with others this week?
2. If you are not intentionally pursuing your own spiritual formation with others in the body of Christ, will you ask God what He would like you to do?

3. Will you ask God if He would like you to invest in the spiritual formation of someone else? If He says “yes” and you need resources, Dale South will be happy to help.

Further Resources

- Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wchapel.org