



**The Book Of John**  
**“The Redemption of Peter”**  
**John 21:1**

**Introduction**

Over the last few weeks we have discovered three simple but profound observations regarding the suffering, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

**Spiritual Awareness**

**I Was Born For This— The Power Of Living On Mission**  
**The Resurrection Of Jesus**

Today we are going to discover:

Observation Four

**The Redemption Of Peter**

**Scripture**

“After this, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way:” CSB

**Quote Of The Day**

“Most of the heroes of Scripture rose to their greatest victories after their worst mistakes. God is in the redemption business, and He testifies of this through the lives of everyone He calls.”

— Rick Joyner

## **The third time Jesus revealed Himself He had one purpose in mind— Redemption and Restoration.**

**To Redeem means to restore, to set free, to save from sin, to reinstate, to recover.**

One of the most gripping stories in the Bible is the story of the crucifixion of Jesus. During the most trying time of His life Jesus stood alone. In the heat of the moment Peter told Jesus that he would die for Him and that he would never deny Him.

Little did Peter know that he would face intense pressure and perceived danger and these factors would cause him to deny Jesus not once, not twice, but three times.

Peter failed miserably because he denied Jesus.

**John 13** and **Luke 22** reveal the cause of Peter's denial

### **Peter was Careless**

**Luke 21:31** "Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat." CSB

**Peter denied Jesus because he was careless and did not heed the warning of Jesus— Peter thought he was ready follow Jesus to prison and death.**

### **Peter was Arrogant**

**Luke 21:33** "Lord," Peter told him, "I'm ready to go with you both to prison and to death." CSB

**It is obvious Peter had an exaggerated view of himself and did not realize his immaturity, his frailty and how quickly he would cave in to the pressure of his peers and the threat of danger.**

## Peter Followed Jesus from a Distance

**Luke 22:54** “They seized Him, led Him away, and brought him into the high priest’s house. Meanwhile **Peter was following at a distance.**” CSB

### FOLLOWING JESUS AT A DISTANCE:

**Does not require Commitment**

**Does not require Courage.**

**Does not require Character**

## Peter’s Fear Overwhelmed His Faithfulness

**Luke 22:60-62** “But Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter. So Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” <sup>62</sup> **And he went outside and wept bitterly.**” CSB

Peter denied that he knew Jesus three times because he feared the pressure of his peers and the threat of danger.

What happened to Peter after he failed Jesus?

### 1. He went back to his old life vv.2-3

Simon Peter, Thomas (called “Twin”), Nathanael from Cana of Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two others of his disciples were together. 3 **“I’m going fishing,” Simon Peter said to them.** “We’re coming with you,” they told him. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

### 2. His influence had significant impact on others v.3b

**“We’re coming with you,”** they told him. CSB

### 3. Life apart from Jesus is fruitless and frustrating v.3b

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

**What happens when, because of our sin, we wreck our life, we damage relationships, we destroy trust and it seems as though we have ruined our life moving forward—**

**Is there hope for me?**

**Can God forgive Me?**

**Does God give second chances?**

**John 21:4-17** tells the story of how Jesus restored Peter.

**The story of Peter's Redemption is much like the story of Peter's Commitment and denial of Jesus.**

**Peter and his friends were fishing**

**Luke 5:1-11** Tells the story of Peter's Commitment to follow Jesus.

Jesus reminded Peter of where he was when Jesus revealed Himself and Peter left everything to follow Him.

**Jesus performed a miracle**

Just like in happened in **Luke 5**, Jesus performed another miracle by providing a great catch of fish.

Jesus confirmed His presence and power after the resurrection

**Peter sat with Jesus near the fire**

It was near the fire where Peter denied knowing Jesus three times.

## Jesus restored Peter publicly

Peter denied he knew Jesus publicly and it was near the fire where Jesus spoke to Peter and restored him publicly, in front of his friends.

**I want to ask everyone this question: Do we see ourselves in this story?**

Have we sinned, have we made a mess of our life, have we gone back to the place before we met Jesus, are we living a frustrated and fruitless life?

Today we are going to talk about the process of Redemption.

**It is God's Character to Forgive and Restore Broken People!**

From the Garden of Eden in **Genesis 3** until now it has always been the character of God to forgive and restore based on confession and repentance of sin!

In **Psalm 51** is King David's "Prayer of Restoration" in v.12 King David says, "**Restore the joy of Your Salvation to me.**"

The word translated "**Restore**" comes from the Hebrew word "**shub**" which means— to turn back, to return, to arrange, to put back into original position, to re-establish.

**King David begged God— make me whole again, make it like it used to be.**

**Psalm 51** teaches us: Redemption Is A Process

**Redemption Begins With Awareness Of Sin vv.1-5**

"Be gracious to me, God, according to your faithful love; according to your abundant compassion, blot out my rebellion.

2 Completely wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.  
3 For I am conscious of my rebellion, and my sin is always before me.  
4 Against you—you alone—I have sinned and done this evil in your sight.  
5 Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.” CSB

## Awareness Of Sin Leads To Forgiveness Of Sin

**Psalm 51:6-7** “Surely you desire integrity in the inner self, and you teach me wisdom deep within.  
7 Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.” CSB

**Earlier in the ministry of Jesus Peter asked a powerful question—**

**Matthew 18:21** Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how many times could my brother sin against me and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

## What Does Forgiveness Really Mean?

The word translated “**forgive**” comes from the Greek word “**a phi e mi**” which means— to keep no longer, to let it be, to release someone from a legal or personal obligation.

## We must receive forgiveness from God

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” CSB

## We must forgive others

**Matthew 5:14-15** “For if you forgive others their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well.  
15 But if you don’t forgive others, your Father will not forgive your offenses.” CSB

**When we refuse to forgive others, when we refuse to “let it go” the bitterness, jealousy, and rage of an unforgiving spirit will ruin our life!**

In June of 2012, Carl Ericsson, a 73-year-old South Dakota man, was sentenced to life in prison after admitting to the murder of a former high school classmate. Friends and family members were shocked that the once-successful insurance salesman seemed to snap. Ericsson had been married to his wife for over 44 years.

But after the murder, Ericsson's secret finally came out. For over 50 years he had simmered with a belated grudge: He was still mad about a classmate who had once pulled a jock strap over his head during a high school locker room prank. Norman Johnson, the classmate and murder victim, was a star athlete on the track team. Ericsson was a student sports manager. According to Ericsson's confession, on one occasion Johnson put a jock strap on Ericsson's head, humiliating him and planting the seed of resentment that would continue to grow for over half a century. Apparently, throughout their lives, Norman Johnson continued to outshine Ericsson. Prior to his murder, Johnson had competed in college football, earned a degree, and then taught and coached at his alma mater for more than three decades.

After holding the grudge for over 50 years, Carl Ericsson rang Johnson's doorbell and shot him dead. Ericsson told a judge, "I guess it was from something that happened over 50 years ago. It was apparently in my subconscious." During his sentencing, Ericsson turned to Johnson's widow and apologized, saying, "I just wish I could turn the calendar back."

Citation: Cameron Smith, Bizarre S.D. murder caused by resentment over 50-year-old locker room jockstrap prank," Yahoo Sports Prep Rally blog (6-18-12)

## **Forgiveness Matters— If we are not right with others we are not right with God!**

**Ephesians 4:32** And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ. CSB

### **We must forgive ourselves**

**Romans 8:1-2** "there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus,, 2 because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death." CSB

## Forgiveness Of Sin Leads To Restoration

**Psalm 51:8-12** “Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Turn your face away from my sins and blot out all my guilt. 10 God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not banish me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 **Restore the joy of your salvation to me**, and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit.” CSB

## Restoration Leads To A Life of Freedom and Purpose

**Psalm 51:13-15** “Then I will teach the rebellious your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God—God of my salvation— and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15 Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.” CSB

## Living with Freedom and Purpose comes from a Heart Of Humility

**Psalm 51:16-17** “You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it; you are not pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. You will not despise a broken and humbled heart, God.” CSB

One of the most significant qualities Christ followers should seek is humility. Authentic humility may seem like weakness to others. However, humility pleases God and it allows us to treat others as more important than ourselves.

In May of 2015, Oscar winning actor, Denzel Washington delivered the Commencement speech to the graduates of Dillard University in New Orleans LA. The emphasis of his speech was “Put God First.”

Denzel Washington said: “When I was young and started really making it as an actor, I came and talked to my mother and said, 'Mom, did you think this was going to happen? I'd be so big and I'll be able to take care of everybody and I can do this and I can do that.'”

Mama Washington reprimanded her son: "Oh, you did it all by yourself? I'll tell you what you can do by yourself: Go outside and get a mop and bucket and clean these windows—**you can do that by yourself, superstar.**"

She said, "Boy, stop it right there, stop it right there, stop it right there!" She said, "If you only knew how many people been praying for you." How many prayer groups she put together, how many prayer talks she gave, how many times she splashed me with holy water to save my sorry behind."

Citation: Michael W. Chapman, Denzel Washington to College Grads: 'Put God First,' CSNNEWS.Com (5-11-15)

**1 Peter 5:5-6** “. . . All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”  
CSB