

The Third Day – Living the Resurrection – Simon Peter

MONDAY – God's bountiful grace



Matthew 4: 18 (NIV) *As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.*

Simon Peter was a fisherman, rough around the edges, full of passion, and - let's be honest - prone to putting his foot in his mouth! Peter walked on water and then sank like a stone. Peter boldly declared that he would never disown Jesus and then, just hours later, denied Him three times, as a rooster crowed.

We have all been there, haven't we? We make promises and have good intentions, but when the pressure is on, we fail. We let fear dictate our actions. Peter's denial wasn't just a little slip-up; it was a deep betrayal. But how wonderful it is that the story of Simon Peter doesn't end with his denial. We also have the record of Peter's recovery

- and gratefully know that we can also recover from our backslidings.

But here's the beauty of grace—Jesus didn't discard Peter! He didn't hold his failure against him. After the resurrection, Jesus specifically sought out Peter, not to condemn him, but to restore him.

Our failures don't define us. Our past mistakes don't disqualify us. Jesus can take our weaknesses and use them to His glory. He can turn our denials into declarations of faith. Just like Peter, we can experience the transforming power of grace and the forgiveness that sets us free to serve and to love.



Prayer: Jesus, shape my heart by Your grace. Transform my thoughts, my words, and my actions so that my life reflects Your love. Help me extend grace to others as freely as You have given it to me. AMEN

TUESDAY – Our relationship with Jesus



Luke 22: 61 & 62 *And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.*

When Jesus appeared to Peter on the beach, he gave him the opportunity to affirm their relationship three times, once for each of Peter's earlier denials, and with that, they became reconciled. This reconciliation shines with the good news of the resurrection. The Risen Christ meets Peter in his brokenness and reaffirms their relationship. The Risen Christ meets us in the same place – in our fear and our brokenness – and affirms that nothing in all creation, not even death, can separate us from God's love.

That's what Jesus did on the beach with Peter after breakfast. And in the power of the Resurrection, that's what Jesus does with each of us. If we listen

for the Risen Christ's call in our lives, we will each hear something a little different because Jesus knows what sets each of our hearts on fire. And Jesus knows where the world most needs us to serve, just as Peter heard the call to feed God's sheep.

God uses us as imperfect people by leveraging our weaknesses, brokenness, and flaws to demonstrate divine strength and grace, often achieving extraordinary results through ordinary individuals. God just wants us to show willingness to do our very best to be His true and faithful representatives here on earth.

Reflection: What do you hear? What is Jesus calling you to do?



Prayer: Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, on this new day, help me remember that I am a beloved sheep of Your pasture and You are my Good Shepherd. AMEN.

WEDNESDAY – Forgiveness and restoration



Matthew 26: 74 (NIV) *Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed.*

Imagine being denied by someone close to you in an hour of need. How long would it take you to forgive that person? Peter denied Jesus three times. I wonder what he must have felt when he saw Jesus for the first time after the resurrection. He must have had some conflicting issues in his heart.

A similar fishing scenario that occurred when Jesus called Peter to follow Him happens again. Peter and the disciples fish the whole night and catch nothing. In the morning they see a man on the shore who tells them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. They follow these instructions, and they catch a large haul of fish. I wonder what was going on in Peter’s mind when this happened. Did he

remember that he started following Jesus under similar circumstances?

It is almost like Jesus is telling Peter that even if he goes back to his old way of life, he will not make it without Jesus. Peter was a natural leader because of his personality. Jesus restores him and leaves him with the responsibility of taking care of others. To imagine that Jesus would give the man who had denied him three times such a responsibility shows us how merciful our God is. He is a God of second and third chances.

You may think that you are too far gone from God because of your actions. If your heart is truly repentant, like Peter’s was, God is willing and able to restore you.



Prayer: Lord God, thank you for Your promise to be with me even in my darkest moments. Thank you for Your promise to always restore, confirm and strengthen me. AMEN

THURSDAY – When we fail Jesus



John 21: 3 *“I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

As we saw yesterday, Peter’s encounter with the Resurrected Jesus happened in circumstances that were familiar to him, in the presence of others, and while he was engaged in fishing, an activity that was so much part of his life. It would appear that “when in doubt,” Peter returned to fishing, in this instance in the company of six of the remaining eleven disciples. Unlike Peter, they had not denied Jesus, but in reality, they had also abandoned Him in His hour of greatest need. Despite this abandonment, Jesus met them on the beach, thus demonstrating His love and unwavering commitment to them, even though they had deserted Him.

This encounter with the Resurrected Jesus is encouraging

for us all, as we have all failed Jesus in the past and will fail Him again in the future. I am sure that we have all been guilty of denying Him, sometimes with our words, and at other times with our silence, behaviour and choices. Isn’t it amazingly reassuring that, no matter what we have done, the same forgiveness, redemption, and restoration that Jesus gave Peter, He also makes available to each and every one of us. Jesus shows the very same love and commitment He showed to Peter to all His followers, even after our worst failures.

Reflection: When in your life have you experienced the forgiveness, redemption and restoration of the love of Jesus?



Prayer: Lord Jesus, You died for my sins and rose again, offering me a new beginning. Please give me the strength to turn away from my past and try to walk in step with Your guidance. AMEN

Friday – The God of Second Chances



Matthew 14:29-31 *"Come," He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"*

As we have seen over the past week, Simon Peter, often called the "rough fisherman," is one of the most relatable figures in the Bible, characterised by his impulsiveness, passion, and intense loyalty, paired with significant personal flaws. His journey from a "rough around the edges" fisherman to a pillar of the early church demonstrates how God uses imperfect, passionate people.

Peter's denial before the crucifixion broke Christ's heart--but no more so than when you and I do it. Perhaps we've never denied Him in the exact same way, but we do so in other ways. We deny Him when others are ridiculing Him, His Word, or His church, and we fail to speak up

and take a stand. We deny Him when we lower our moral standards. We deny Him when we allow unholy attitudes to creep into our hearts. We deny Him when we neglect His church, when we fail to be a witness to others, and when we don't give Him first place in our lives.

We all believe that our God is the God of second chances. We have learnt that the story of Simon Peter didn't end with his denial of Jesus, and we marvel at how God used him as the rock on which he built his church. It is through this same amazing grace that we all can recover from our personal backslidings, hopefully, to be true representatives of our loving God in this place.



Prayer: Almighty God, thank you for trusting us to be Your representatives. Help us to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ wherever we are. AMEN