

The Restoration of a Sinning Saint, Part 2

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Peter remembered his sin, and he found a place of solitude to get right with God. (Matthew 27, Isaiah 60)

B. The marvelous thing is that Peter was restored.

C. Text: John 21.

II. Peter suffered from an inability to think that God could use him, so he went fishing.

III. Jesus shows himself to Peter and presses Peter whether he loves him more than the other disciples.

A. Jesus uses the word for supreme love.

B. Peter responds saying he does love Jesus, but with the word for deep affection not supreme love.

C. Jesus responds by calling Jesus back into ministry: “feed my loves.”

D. Jesus accepts the less than perfect love of Peter. It should not remain this way, but this is an acceptable place to start.

IV. Jesus asks Peter about his love for him again and calls Peter to feed his sheep twice more in order to restore him for the threefold denial.

V. Peter was the chief spokesman—he became the main feeder of sheep.

VI. Jesus recommissioned Peter and gave him a new nature through the Spirit. (Acts 2, Galatians 5)

VII. Lessons Peter learned.

A. We are kept by the power of God. (1 Peter 1:5; 4:7)

B. We are to be humble in all things. (1 Peter 5:5)

C. We are to desire God’s word with single-mindedness. (1 Peter 2)

D. God perfects through suffering. (1 Peter 5:10, 2 Peter 3:17)

Application Questions:

1. How does Jesus meet Peter where he is at in the restoration process?

2. When have you needed God to meet you where you were at? Why is this sometimes difficult to accept?

3. Why is the Spirit essential for restoration? Explain.
