

The Restoration of Peter

(Part 1)

“¹ Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 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. ⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. ⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.” (John 21:1-14)

Apostle Peter is one of the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord had disciple him for around three and half years of hard teaching and training, and he was commissioned by the Lord to be the one that the Lord would use to build His church. But what had happened after the death of Jesus on the cross, Simone Peter and the rest of the disciples scattered because the event of Jesus’ crucifixion and His death was a big trauma to them. Although the Lord had appeared to them twice after His resurrection but still Simone Peter is away from the ministry and the responsibility that the Lord had entrusted to Him to do.

The Lord had to go to him once more in order for him to be restored. Jesus went to Peter to help him to be in line with God and with His Word. Now as Christ moved to Peter we as a church we need to go forward to restore people. Christ when he went back to restore Peter He did not go to compromise with Peter or went to condone sin but He went to restore Him. The same for us as a church we are not moving to change the Word of God or the will of God for the people, but we move forward to restore people and help them to be in harmony with God, to obey His word and to do His will. We will be moving to help them, and we will not encourage or approve their sins but to help them to come out from sin and from disobedience.

Christ moved with understanding of the people and their problems. The same for us we need to understand peoples’ personalities so we can deal with them and help them appropriately. If we will be going to put the blame on Peter and the people who left the service that will be not going to help, but we need to understand why Peter or the people behave in such way and study their personalities so we can help them.

1- Anxieties and worries chock the Word of God: The source of the living for people is very important factor and how to secure it is very essential; to some people that even may justify being away from God’s service. Worries about prizes, bills, losing jobs, future troubles, globalization, economic recession, all these are sucking factor that take people’s faith. And here we found Christ moved, and the church must move to help people to be restored back to their faith and trust in God.

2- Remember you are dealing with insecure people: Christ lost His life by His death on the cross. The question now for Peter and for the people is this, *‘Is their future with Christ is secure?’* The question for Peter and for those who had backslidden is the following: *‘If I give my life to the Lord who will give it to me back?’* Or *‘If I give my time or my money or my resources to the Lord, who is going to give it to me, back?’* In other word, *‘Is Christ is worthy that I can sacrifice all that for him?’* People’s psychology is important, therefore as Christ move forward to restore people afflicted with insecurities we as a church we move forward to restore people afflicted with insecure feelings.

3- Appreciate people’s level of commitment: Christ gave up His life, but Peter at that time was not willing to give up His boat. Sometimes we take people for granted, but that is not correct, we have to appreciate their level of commitment and start from where they are. Therefore as Christ moved to Peter where he is working and earning his living, we need to start to restore people from where they are now. Understanding that trials and hardships had harassed them and we need to help them. Christ did not take Peter at once to the cross but He started with him from his level of commitment. We need as a church to start with people from where they are.

4- Understand people real difficulty and struggle: Peter whole night was trying with his companion to catch fish but they were not able as we can read here, **“but that night they caught nothing.”** Possibly because long time he was not practicing that. That may be for you and for me a trivial thing, but practically it is an important issue because it is linked with the income and daily people living. The people need to be helped in their income so their restoration will become an easy process.

5- Show Friendship: Jesus when He called them, He told them, **“Friends.”** People they need somebody to be friend to them in sense of caring and loving them. Before we can win people back to God and restore them to where God had called them to do and to be. They need to feel the true love of God through us; they need to be touched by our love and care and they should trust us before they can be open to what we tell them and to the calling of God.

My dear and beloved: Many who are called by God but they are trapped somewhere and they need someone to help them and to support them in order for them to come back to the Lord and be restored and got blessed. God had called you to be partner with Him to do His work and obey His will as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. O Lord helps me and supports me to go on and serve you wholeheartedly. O Lord equips me with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to go on and do your work. Lord gives me a compassionate heart to love you more and to love your work and to love the lost souls. Lord I commit myself to go with you and search for them. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*