

Jesus Reinstates Peter

L8

Key Verse

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” – John 21:15 NIV

Lesson Focus

You are not beyond
God's Love

Jesus Reinstates Peter

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Jesus Reinstates Peter

Collen finished dressing but sat on the locker room bench, piqued by the conversation of the two men several lockers down.

One was saying he was tired of the "game." His life had been full of disappointment after disappointment. He was empty, even after trying so many things. The other young man offered an occasional, "I know what you mean."

Collen felt a slight tug in his heart. But who was he to say something after what he had done? He felt like David in Psalm 32:3-4, when he carried the burden of his unrepentant sin.

Because the weight had been too great for him, he called out to the Lord. At church, Mark had come to the altar twice. Later, he talked to one of the elders at the church.

"Brother, God forgave you the first time you repented," said Elder Paul. "I don't want to hear any more of the gory details. We should be grieved by our sins, but condemnation is not from God. It's from the devil. So, pick yourself up and take your place in Christ. He's got more things for you to do!"

Collen rehearsed Elder Paul's words of encouragement and turned off the voice of condemnation in his head.

"Excuse me," Collen said to the two men. "I'm sorry, but I have overheard much of your conversation."

Then Collen began to witness the good news of Christ to them.

1. What are some ways you sometimes feel or respond when you've wandered away from Jesus or failed Him in some way?
2. How does Jesus respond when this happens?
3. What should our response to our knowledge of this be?

LESSON FOCUS: You are not beyond God's love.

A Checkered Past

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love (agape) me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love (phileo) you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love (agape) me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love (phileo) you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” – John 21:15-16 NIV

A Challenging Future

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love (Agape) me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love (agape)me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love (phileo) you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”-John 21:17-19 NIV

Jesus Loves You Still

Jesus Loves You Still

I don't know how many times I've let Jesus down. And every time my faith or character falters, I end up feeling unworthy of the One who saved me. I know that I'm supposed to be salt and light to the world; I know I'm supposed to exhibit what Christ is like. Yet I blunder more often than not in doing this, I'm less like Jesus than I ought to be, and when it comes to sin, no matter how hard I try, I seem to keep on doing many of the things Jesus is urging me not to do.

Sometimes I lay on my bed at night weeping over my inability to live the Christian life in ways that are pleasing in God's eyes. But ironically, sometimes it's in times of grief over my failures that I feel closest to Jesus. It is sometimes in those moments of despair that I end up recognizing that Jesus doesn't hold anything against me and that He's always ready to accept me back into His arms no matter what I've done.

As I think about this and what Jesus did to show He was ready to reinstate Peter, I'm reminded that being restored to a close and fruitful relationship with Jesus can be a one-time event. There can be that dramatic moment when we realize how far we've drifted away from Jesus, understand what is required to be restored to Him, and accept once-and-for-all Jesus' willingness to bring us back into His arms. But it can also be something that happens more often if we've drifted away from Him for a time, experience guilt or shame for doing so, and recognize once again that no matter what we've done that we are never beyond the reach of His love.

11. *Have there been times when you felt worthless in the eyes of Jesus or that what you did was so bad that He would never love or accept you again? Explain your answer.*

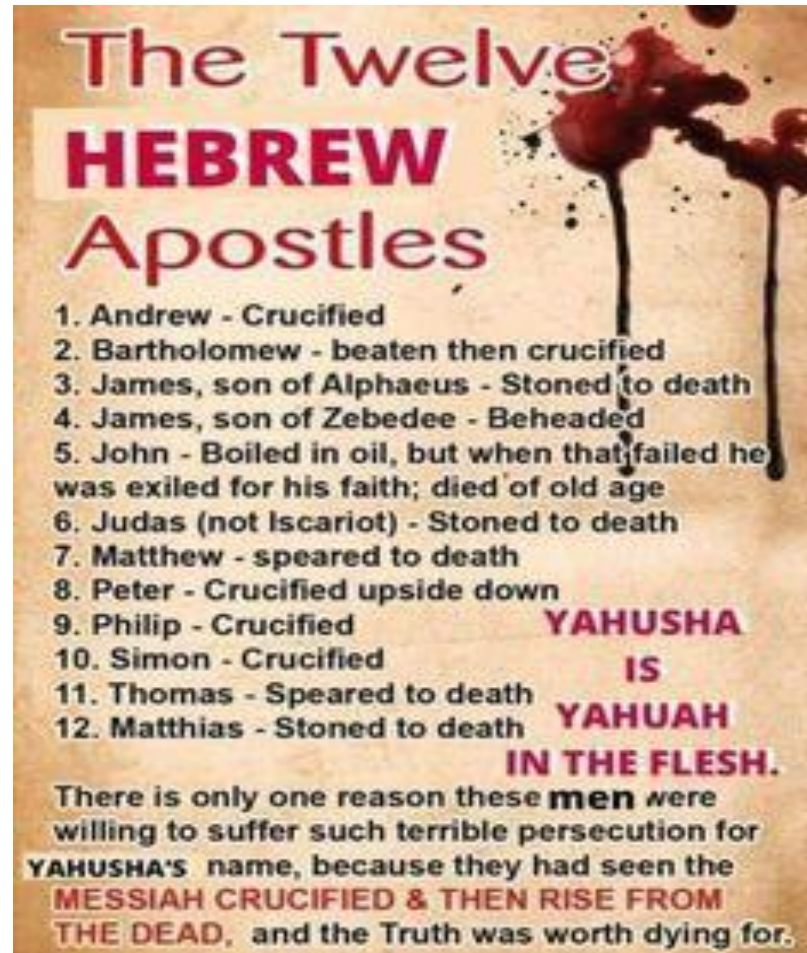
12. *How can today's passage be encouraging as you consider times you may have felt this way?*

13. *How does Jesus want you to respond to His promise that you are never beyond the reach of His love?*

Peter Crucified Upside Down



The Twelve Apostles



The Twelve
HEBREW
Apostles

1. Andrew - Crucified
2. Bartholomew - beaten then crucified
3. James, son of Alphaeus - Stoned to death
4. James, son of Zebedee - Beheaded
5. John - Boiled in oil, but when that failed he was exiled for his faith; died of old age
6. Judas (not Iscariot) - Stoned to death
7. Matthew - speared to death
8. Peter - Crucified upside down
9. Philip - Crucified
10. Simon - Crucified
11. Thomas - Speared to death
12. Matthias - Stoned to death

YAHUSHA
IS
YAHUAH
IN THE FLESH.

There is only one reason these **men** were willing to suffer such terrible persecution for **YAHUSHA'S** name, because they had seen the **MESSIAH CRUCIFIED & THEN RISE FROM THE DEAD**, and the Truth was worth dying for.

Questions

1. What are some ways you sometimes feel or respond when you've wandered away from Jesus or failed Him in some way?
2. How does Jesus respond when this happens?
3. What should our response to our knowledge of this be?
4. How might the circumstances described in today's passage have been a reminder to Peter of his past failures?
5. What did Jesus want Peter to confirm?
6. What were some differences between the first two questions Jesus asked?

Questions

7. What did Jesus ask Peter to do if he truly loved Him?
8. What may Peter have been hurt by Jesus' repetition of the same question?
9. What was going to change if Peter expressed the type of love Jesus demanded?
10. What was required so that Peter could be reinstated and become the "rock" Jesus said he was destined to be?
11. Have there been times when you felt worthless in the eyes of Jesus or that what you did was so bad that he would never love or accept you again?

Questions

12. How can today's passage be encouraging as you consider times you may have felt this way?
13. How does Jesus want you to respond to His promise that you are never beyond the reach of His love?