

## John 21—"Peter and the Disciples are Restored!" Open Gate Christian Fellowship, January 31, 2021

(Mark 16:6-7; Matthew 28:16)

- 1) We also think that poor Thomas was the only sceptic in the crowd, the only one who \_\_\_\_\_, but, in fact, that was the general condition that Jesus found among His "followers..."

(Mark 16:6-7; Luke 2:4; Mark 1:13-14, 16, 19, 29-31)

- 2) Peter may have felt that his days in the ministry were over. He had failed so catastrophically. Peter's denial of Jesus was deplorable, indefensible. *How could God ever use him again in any \_\_\_\_\_?*

(1 John 1:9)

- 3) That's so true for all of us! We get \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, even get away from the Lord...but all we need is to open our hearts to a few words of direction from Jesus! Fellowship with God is always just a heart ready to repent and a prayer away!

- 4) How can we be quick to recognize the presence of Jesus? By \_\_\_\_\_ in His love and rejoicing in His Word!

- 5) Peter was never short on passion and enthusiasm. Whenever Peter saw Jesus he was always first to jump in! In that \_\_\_\_\_, let's be like Peter.

(Acts 6:40-41)

- 6) Jesus is about to send the disciples to feed His sheep, but He first feeds them. Here's a foundational principle in the Kingdom —\_\_\_\_\_ you feed others, you \_\_\_\_\_ need to be fed by Jesus!

(Matthew 26:33)

- 7) This might be the Lord's "Handle With Care!" sticker. Jesus says, "Feed my lambs. They're fragile; love and nurture them, \_\_\_\_\_ them right where they are! Help them grow."

- 8) This tells us that Jesus will start working on us with whatever level of love we have for Him, but He does demand \_\_\_\_\_, like Peter is finally displaying here in John 21... a giant contrast to his prideful declaration we saw in Matthew 26

(Joel 2:25; Luke 7:47-48)

- 9) Grace changes everything! It does here for Peter; and I'm so grateful that God is doing it daily for me; and He \_\_\_\_\_ to give His grace to you, too!

## John 21—"Peter and the Disciples are Restored!" Open Gate Christian Fellowship, January 31, 2021

(Mark 16:6-7; Matthew 28:16)

- 1) We also think that poor Thomas was the only sceptic in the crowd, the only one who **doubted**, but, in fact, that was the general condition that Jesus found among His "followers..."

(Mark 16:6-7; Luke 2:4; Mark 1:13-14, 16, 19, 29-31)

- 2) Peter may have felt that his days in the ministry were over. He had failed so catastrophically. Peter's denial of Jesus was deplorable, indefensible. *How could God ever use him again in any **official capacity**?*

(1 John 1:9)

- 3) That's so true for all of us! We get **side-tracked**, even get away from the Lord...but all we need is to open our hearts to a few words of direction from Jesus! Fellowship with God is always just a heart ready to repent and a prayer away!

- 4) How can we be quick to recognize the presence of Jesus? By **reveling** in His love and rejoicing in His Word!

- 5) Peter was never short on passion and enthusiasm. Whenever Peter saw Jesus he was always first to jump in! In that **sense**, let's be like Peter.

(Acts 6:40-41)

- 6) Jesus is about to send the disciples to feed His sheep, but He first feeds them. Here's a foundational principle in the Kingdom —**before** you feed others, you **first** need to be fed by Jesus!

(Matthew 26:33)

- 7) This might be the Lord's "Handle With Care!" sticker. Jesus says, "Feed my lambs. They're fragile; love and nurture them, **accept** them right where they are! Help them grow."

- 8) This tells us that Jesus will start working on us with whatever level of love we have for Him, but He does demand **humility**, like Peter is finally displaying here in John 21... a giant contrast to his prideful declaration we saw in Matthew 26

(Joel 2:25; Luke 7:47-48)

- 9) Grace changes everything! It does here for Peter; and I'm so grateful that God is doing it daily for me; and He **desires** to give His grace to you, too!

**Life Group Homework**  
**For the week of January 31, 2021**

9) It is tempting for us to compare our calling (or role) with the calling (or role) of others - and then become distracted. It can even be a form of “spiritualized jealousy”. What are some ways you can protect yourself from the temptation to compare yourself with others?

10) Being jealous indicates that we are not satisfied with what God has given us. Try to come up with at least three reasons why you *should* be satisfied with what God has given you.

### TAKING IT HOME

11) If you had to pick only one thing from this week’s sermon or homework - what do you most want to remember?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) Would you rather...
  - ...go to the beach or to the mountains?
  - ...live 100 years in the past or in the future?
  - ...eat pizza or ice cream for a whole week?
  
- 2) Can you relate to Peter’s...
  - ...reacting impulsively?
  - ...occasional speaking before thinking?
  - ...feeling discouraged by his failures?
  - ...getting distracted instead of waiting on the Lord?
  - ...gratefulness for God’s grace?

### REVIEW

- 3) Looking back at your notes, what stood out to you from this week’s message?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) This week we saw how Jesus restored Peter (even after he denied Jesus three times and went fishing instead of waiting on the Lord). Jesus not only restored Peter, but even gave him an official role to feed His sheep. All of this was possible because of Jesus’ grace. **What does the following passage tell us about God’s grace?**

***Ephesians 2:1-10*** - "[1] And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, [2] in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, [3] among whom also we all once

*conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. [4] But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, [5] even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), [6] and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast. [10] For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

5) In your opinion, what is the most amazing aspect of God's grace for you?

6) This passage clearly states that grace is free and can't be earned - yet many people still struggle with this truth. Can you think of any subtle ways that people try to earn God's grace, even though they know it can't be earned?

7) Can you think of any characters in the bible who received God's grace? Summarize their story in a sentence or two.

8) At the end of John 21, Jesus told Peter to "feed My sheep." What do each of the following verses tell you, as a Christian, to do?

**Matthew 5:16** - ""Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

**Matthew 5:46** - ""For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

**Matthew 25:40** - ""And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

**Matthew 28:19** - ""Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"

Which of these commands comes easiest for you? Which one is the hardest, and why?