



July 5, 2026
Series: Week 1
Pastor Josh
Tom Kotay
www.lebefree.org

“Jesus Restores, Calls, Transforms” (John 21)

Campfires have always been a gathering place for people to share stories, both those they have heard, and the ones that they have lived. Each week in our series, we will have one or more speakers share stories from God’s Word that have inspired them, convey how they have applied these lessons to their lives, and provide encouragement for our church family to consider.

Jesus Restores Peter

¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. ¹⁸ Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” ¹⁹ This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.” **John 21:15-19 (NKJV)**

Key observations...

(1) Peter's restoration and ours...

... We cannot let our past and current flaws and failures define us.

... Jesus saw Peter's potential / his strengths and they were needed then, just as our giftings are needed now.

-Lesson to Learn... **Jesus restores us.**

(2) Love requires action, most importantly humble service...

... Jesus didn't want to hear just words (platitudes) from Peter; He wanted Peter's total commitment to care for and be concerned about others...

... Peter was being commissioned to service by Jesus. As sons and daughters of God, we must love sacrificially as well.

-Lesson to Learn... **Jesus calls us to a life of love and humble service.**

(3) Transformation...

... Peter's life changed from being a fisherman to becoming an early evangelist. His identity also changed from being impetuous to being "the rock."

... For us, like Peter, this requires our patience and persistence over the course of our lives, and again, our past mistakes can't stop us from moving forward in His name.

-Lesson to Learn... **Jesus transforms us.**

Consider:

1. What must it have been like for Peter and the disciples there on the beach?
2. Have you had encounters with the Jesus that have been life-changing for you?
3. For parents with young children, how could this story help explain the relationship between love, forgiveness, and living a life of service?
4. For seniors, what is your next move to serve and honor Jesus?
5. How should we realistically address our shortcomings before we look to lead others?
6. What are the true, Jesus-desired, qualities of a good shepherd? Who has modeled these well for you?
7. At the end of verse 19, Jesus tells Peter to "Follow Him." What does that look like for each of us?