

Hey. We're finishing up our series, Rivers and Lakes. Sean was here last week. We talked about the Great Commission. He did a stellar job in reminding us of the call that Jesus gives us.

The commission Jesus gives us to share our faith with others. But today we're going to do something a little interesting. We're going to do what we did three weeks ago, and we're going to rewind. Because in jumping ahead to Jesus, ascension and Jesus's commission to us, we skipped over a lot of important stuff. We skipped over the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples.

Jesus taught his disciples and said some important last things that he wanted them to know. But one of the things he said is that one of you will betray me. And the disciples are all looking around going, wait, what? Who would do that? They're all asking, is it me?

Is it me? And Peter says this. He goes, all of them might betray you, but not me. I will lay down my life for you. Now remember those words.

Because we all say things that come around to bite us on the backside. And these famous words of Peter will do the same. Jesus knows this, and he says, listen, before the rooster crows in the morning hour, you will deny me three times. Now, Judas, one of Jesus disciples, does betray him. And in the garden of Gethsemane, soldiers arrive.

They seize Jesus, and they take him to the courtyard of the high priest. And while there, one of the servant girls points to Peter, who's tagged along behind in the dark and says, hey, that guy was part of that man's group. And Peter says, I don't know that guy. Another man says, I recognize you. Peter's like, no, you don't.

Peter was the first gaslighter, by the way. No, you don't. The third guy says, you. You have the same accent as Jesus. And Peter says, what are you talking about?

Now we laugh, but it wasn't funny in the moment because the rooster crows at that moment. And I don't know that I've ever noticed this from the passage, but Jesus is in the spot where Peter is denying him. Jesus is standing right there because the scriptures say. John tells us that Jesus turns and looks at Peter. Oh, my word.

And Peter realizes what he's done, and he runs from the courtyard in shame. As a Christian, I know I can. I suspect you can too. We can all identify some moment in our Christian walk where our confession of faith is compromised.

And we end up feeling ashamed and guilty and embarrassed about how we represented or didn't represent Jesus, and if that's you this morning, if you say, yeah, I've been there, where I am really ashamed of how I behaved or what I said or what I didn't say, then I pray that today is

going to be a helpful day. So I'm going to have you turn in your bibles to John 21. I've got a few scriptures up there, but it's going to be really helpful. If you've got your Bibles, if you've got your Bible app, just open your bibles to John 21 so you can scroll around and read through, because we're going to move pretty quickly through some of the parts of this account. Father, this morning I pray that your word would be.

Would be a light and a lamp to our pathway as we walk, as we walk and follow you. May your word provide the light so that we. We can see your steps in front of us. And then I also pray that your word would be hope to our hearts this morning. Especially for those who are feeling like they are a disappointment to Jesus.

I pray that today they would be. They would be giving hope and restoration in Jesus name. Amen.

There was a song that we used to sing in Sunday school. You may know it. Be careful little eyes, what you see. You, you know this one? If you do, sing it with me.

Be careful little eyes, what you see Sing it loud for the Father up above he is looking down with love so be careful little eyes, what you see now there's multitudes of verses. Our little Pentecostal Church. I mean, they, they, they, they hit on everyone. Every possible potential point of sin for little Timmy. They hit on be careful little ears, be careful little tongue, be careful little hands, be careful little feet, etc.

Y' all sing those verses too. In your Baptist church, your Methodist church. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Even at a young age, that song struck my heart with conviction because my Sunday school teacher may not have been aware of what my eyes and my ears and my hands and my tongue and my feet have gotten in me into the mischief that I'd gotten into. But, but, but God did.

And singing that song just reminded me that God was watching me all week long, was probably pretty disappointed with me, maybe even a little ticked off at me. So we sing that song and I'm like, just. I'll just skip out and go to big church. I feel like it's a little easier up there. But In John chapter 21, if you're there, this is where the disciples Are.

I think they. They have experienced all of those feelings of guilt and shame because it's not just Peter who betrayed Jesus and who denied Jesus. All of the disciples, except John abandoned Jesus in this deep moment of need. They were nowhere to be found. So it seems here that several of those disciples have gathered together.

They're hanging out, but they're hanging out, just depressed. They're

despondent. They're listless. They're guilty. They're ashamed.

Why wouldn't they be? They had disappointed themselves and they had disappointed God. Finally, Peter says, man, I'm just going to go out and fish. Simon Peter tells them this, and the rest of the disciples say, okay, we're going to go with you. And so they go out to fish.

They fish all through the night. They catch nothing. And then in the early morning, when the mist is still laying heavy across the water, they hear a voice call out across the water to them. Friends, haven't you any fish?

No, no, they answer.

The voice calls out again, throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. Now, if you're in that boat, you have heard those exact words before, haven't you? You see, this is a callback to an earlier moment, way earlier in the ministry of Jesus. It's. It's the moment where Peter, this disciple that just will do anything for Jesus, first got the call to follow Jesus.

You remember this? Jesus comes up to them that morning and says, have you caught any fish? They say, no, no, no, we've been catching all night long. And. And there's.

There's nothing out there. Oh, put your nets on the other side. No, no, you don't understand. This is not a good fishing day. We're wrapping it up.

We're going home. We're going to fix our nets. We're going to spend the day just doing some maintenance stuff, and we're calling it a day. And Jesus says, just cast your net on the other side. So they do it.

And when they do, they are unable to haul in the net because of all the fish they catch this large number. And this is the moment where Peter says, who is this? And he follows Jesus. So when Jesus comes up now the second time and says, throw your nets on the other side, everyone in that boat is like, what Verse seven says, this, the disciple whom Jesus loved. This is John's way of saying, me, me.

I said to Peter, it's the Lord. And as soon as Simon Peter heard him say, it's the Lord, he jumps into the water. Now he's not. They're not too far. So he's wading in.

Now, if anyone's ever tried to run in water. Have you ever done that? It's exhausting. It's. Well, it is for me.

It's exhausting. So he wades on the beach, but he's so excited, he's drenched from the. From the waist down. And what does he see there but a fire, a fire of burning coals with fish and some bread on it that

Jesus has prepared for them. This is another callback, by the way.

Fish and loaves. Remember that when the Lord provided exactly what the people needed. Fish and loaves. Jesus knows what we need. And more than that, he knows what we need and he has what we need.

God is good. Amen. So Jesus has this meal prepared, but notice this. Here's what he says. He says, bring your bit too.

Bring some of those fish that I just helped you catch and bring it and add it to the meal. Now, I don't know what our offering meditation is going to be like today, but here's a little sweet reminder that Jesus says, what I have provided for you, you bring it with you and you contribute it back to the good of others. I love that. Anyway, he says, come and eat breakfast. And just like that, it seems like they are transported back to those olden days.

Remember that? Before all the horrible stuff happened, before the betrayal, before the arrest, before the crucifixion, before the just despondency, before the guilt. They're back and they're sitting around the fire with Jesus and they're laughing and they're talking. It's like nothing. It was all.

It was all a dream, a horrible dream. But it's over and they're back, restored back to what it was before. The bad stuff is over and Jesus is back. And when they'd finished eating, John 21:15 says, when they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon. Now, the verse goes on, but I want to stop right there.

Simon. This is a very. This is a very big name right here. So Simon is how we pronounce it, but his friends, his family would have said, Simon, Simon. And Jesus says Simon.

So Simon is Peter's given name. His dad called him Simon, his mom called him Simon. Probably his business associates in the fishing business called him Simone, too. He's called Peter because Jesus gave him that name later on. Peter is a name that is derived from a Greek word meaning rock.

And if you remember, Jesus said, on this rock, Peter, I will build my church. But his, his given Name is like mine, Tim. Other people call me Mr. Awesome, but most. But my family just call me Tim.

Peter. Peter would have been known by all of his people as Simon. Now, if you. If you read through some of the letters of Paul, you will. In James, you will sometimes hear Peter referred to as Cephas.

Now, Cephas is just the Aramaic equivalent of Peter. Rock. And then sometimes you'll hear Simeon. That's. That is another name for Peter, but that's a Hebrew form of his name, and it's just used occasionally.

Mostly he is known as Simone.

Simone Bar Jonah or Simone Bar John, which is his dad's name. His dad's name is John or Jonah, depending on which language you're speaking. So let's call him Simon Johnson. That's his name. Simon, son of John, Simon bar Jonah.

Now, this name, Simon, goes even deeper than this because Simon is named after someone else. A man. A long, long, long, long, long time ago. You may remember the story of Jacob and Esau. And Jacob stole the birthright from his brother Esau and had to go away.

When he went away, he found a wife. He found. But one of them he loved dearly, Rachel. And one of them he married almost by accident, and he didn't care for her at all. Now, a horrible situation for Leah.

Leah in this situation, again, we're way back. We are really rewinding. Leah, in this moment of just feeling unloved and uncared for, prays to the Lord for a child, someone that she can just call her own. And God hears her prayer. And the word for God has heard me is Simon.

God has heard. So now let's fast forward. You got that, Simone? God has heard. And so when Peter and Jesus are walking there on the shore, and Jesus turns to Simon, Peter, and he says, Simon, can you put yourself in that situation and perhaps imagine that Peter is taken back to that moment in the courtyard when he's uttered those terrible words of denial and betrayal.

And Jesus turns to him, and Peter realizes. God has heard everything I've said, Simone.

But then, look, he's standing and walking right there with Jesus.

And I believe in that moment, he realized something else. Simone. God is right here. And God is walking with me on this beach, and God is talking, and I'm listening, and he's asking me to talk so he can listen. And here's what Jesus says to him.

Simon, son of John, do you love me more than those. Oh, it's another moment where it's like the shame is he remembers how he boasted that he loved Jesus more than any of the rest of them. He would lay down his life even if those all fled and ran.

Jesus says, do you love me more than you love the others? Do you love me more than you love the opinion of a servant girl or a random stranger? Do you love me? Do you care about my opinion more than the world's opinion? Do you want my approval more than you want anyone else's approval?

And humbly, Peter responds, and he says this. Yes, Lord, you know that I love you. And Jesus says, famously, feed my lambs. Now, I don't know what happens between that verse and the very next verse. Maybe they walk for a while in silence.

Maybe they talk about how Peter's family is doing. How is your mother in law, Peter? Is she still doing all right? I don't know. But at some point, Jesus turns to Peter again and he says, simon, son of John, do you love me?

Have you ever been there where someone asked you a second time? You're like, hold on, is this early onset dementia? Did you not hear me the first time? Was I not clear? Did I say that?

Did I not say that? I thought I said it. I did say that, didn't I? He says, yes, Lord, you know that I love you. And Jesus says a second time, take care of my sheep.

And then a third time, Jesus says to him, simone, son of John, do you love me? And now Peter's been on this roller coaster of emotions, and John calls it out. Peter was hurt. Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, do you love me? Peter says, lord, you know all things.

You know that I love you. And Jesus says, then feed my sheep.

What does this account matter? Why is it recorded? Why are we talking about it today? Well, I will tell you it matters because no matter who you are this morning, whether you are a parent, whether you are a pastor, whether you are the guy filling potholes out there on East 50, if you love Jesus, you will at some point feel like a terrible disappointment to him. Have you been there yet in your walk with Jesus?

If so, just say amen. Raise your hand, nod your head, look around. Because if you're here this morning and you're feeling like you're the only one that has ever disappointed Jesus, I want to reassure you that we've all been there. We can all identify with Peter. Your little eyes, your little hands, your little feet, your little mouth has led you to a place of sin and embarrassment and shame.

It's led you to a place of disappointment with yourself, and it's led you To a place where you just feel like an utter disappointment to God. And what makes it worse is, Simone, you know, that God has seen. But if you remember the chorus of that little. That little Sunday school song, these songs we sang as children are theologically rich. Never dismiss a Sunday school song.

These are. These are key little songs. Because how does the chorus go?

For the Father up above? He is looking down with love.

Love. He is looking down with love. Jeremiah 31:3. God says this to his people who have disappointed him time and time and time again. And he's thrown them into exile and brought them back.

And sent them back into exile and brought them home again. And he says this. Listen. I have loved you with an everlasting love. You may have experienced the consequences of your sin, but you need to know this.

Never for a moment did I cease loving you. I have loved you with an everlasting love. And for those of you who this morning are feeling like.

But what about me and my sin? Lamentations 3:23. His mercies are new every morning. New every morning. Fresh and new every morning.

God loves us. And Jesus is all about fresh starts. Maybe you're like Peter and you had a rough day yesterday.

Diane, you had a rough day yesterday. Lonnie, you had a rough day yesterday. Here's what Jesus says. Lonnie, do you love me? Diane, do you love me?

You know, the question isn't to reassure Jesus. Jesus is going, I don't know, Peter, are you still in it with me? I mean, I feel like we need to talk through this stuff at the very least. Jesus, Peter, you need to go and you need to confess to all those disciples over there what you did. You need to own up to it.

And then you need to apologize to me. You. I want some groveling here. Jesus doesn't do that. He just says, do you love me?

And that is not to reassure Jesus, because as Peter said very clearly, Lord, you know that I do. And it's true. Jesus knew that Peter loved him. The questions were to remind and revolution, reassure. Peter, do you love me?

Yes, I do love you. And what does Jesus say to him then? Get back in the game. Don't hide away. Don't run away.

Don't sequester yourself. Don't become a hermit. Get back in the game, Peter. Yes, you did something disappointing, Peter. It won't be the last time.

Time you do something disappointing. But I love you. You're my child. I called you to myself. So don't hide, don't run away.

Don't go back to fishing for fish. When I've called you to be a fisherman of men. Rejoin the mission. You love me and I love you. So

feed my sheep.

When we feel at our most worthless, this is important to remember because you'll be there. If you're not there today, you'll be there at some point in time. It is important to remember that God loves us. And this is the key thing. God loves you.

That's the first starting point. First, John 4:10 says, this is how love works. It's not that we start by loving God. That's. That's.

That may come, but that's not what happens first. What happens first is this. He loved us. And he sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for his sins. So, Peter, it doesn't matter.

It is not about it. Not that it doesn't matter. It is not about how fervently you profess your love for God. It is that God has professed and proved his love for you.

So how do we demonstrate now our love for God? Jesus tells Peter, feed my sheep. He tells us, you can show your love for me by how you demonstrate your love for others. In John 13:34, Jesus tells us to his disciples, he says, listen, as I have loved you, you love one another. Now, how did Jesus love us?

Through the love of his Father, God so loved. The Scripture says, in John 3:16, we know this verse. God so loved. And what did Jesus do? Jesus obeyed his Father.

That's how he showed love for us. Philippians says he obeyed. He obeyed to the point of death. So how do we love God? Well, if you love me, keep my commands.

Jesus says, keep my commands. I have loved you love one another. So these little eyes need to be looking for Jesus and the people around us. These little tongues need to speak of Jesus to the people around us. These little hands need to serve the people around us for Jesus.

These little feet need to go wherever God tells us to go, to serve and share Jesus. In other words, if you love me, Jesus tells Peter, I need you to release it out. Don't hold it. Don't hide it. You need to give it out.

We don't need big, bold announcements. We just need you to care for the people that God's put in your life. Feed my sheep. Today you may feel like a disappointment to God. Your eyes have seen stuff they can't see.

Your mouth has said stuff that can't be unsaid. Your hands have done things that can't be undone. You maybe have lost a relationship over it. Maybe you lost a job. Maybe you're just feeling disappointed.

You're feeling worthless. You're feeling unlovable. You think man, Can God forgive me? Yes. My brain says, yes, he can.

But will He?

Yes, he will. The same God who commands you to forgive 70 times 7, will he not also extend the same generous grace to you? Yes, he will. And if you accept that generous grace, like Peter, your disappointing moment can be an opportunity to hear the call of God in a new and fresh way. That first call of God.

Follow me. The second call of God. That refreshed and renewed call of God. Go feed my sheep. I'm so glad that God is all about redeeming and restoring failures.

I have been in that spot too many times to count. The Lord offered Peter forgiveness and an opportunity for a fresh start. And he can do the same for anyone sitting in this room this morning. So you may be wondering if Jesus can ever love you again after what you said or what you did or what you thought. But we're going to have a moment here in just a little bit.

Andy's going to come up and lead us in this, where we're going to take a piece of bread and a little cup, and it's going to. It's going to be a callback to that moment on. On the lake, there on the shore when Jesus has prepared this meal. This is his. This is his offering for us.

He says, come and be part of this. Come and sit here and partake and remind yourself, those of you who have trusted Jesus with your life, that. That there is a. There is redemption, there is refreshment, there is restoration to any who call upon the name of the Lord to be restored by his grace. John 3:16 is one of our favorite verses, but I'm telling you, the older I get, the more John 3:17 becomes just life and light to me.

Where God makes it clear, he says, I did not send my son into the world to condemn the world. I sent my son into the world to save the world. I'm so thankful for that. Aren't you? Heavenly Father, we thank you for the cross.

We thank you for this moment that we're going to lean into, this moment that is a warm welcome of mercy and forgiveness. This moment that reminds us of our salvation, this moment that invites us into the life and the purpose that you have created for us. And this moment that reminds us that when we mess up that purpose, when we mess up that life, man, the cross stands as a reminder of that everlasting love. And that day by day, morning by morning fresh new mercies. I thank you that you restored Peter and I'm so thankful that you restore

me and anyone who comes to you in Jesus name.

Thank you for listening to this message from Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. Did you know you can watch all of our video content, both current and past, on our YouTube channel. Visit [YouTube.com/sherwoodoaks](https://www.youtube.com/sherwoodoaks) to watch messages, series and complete worship services.