

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	John 21:1-25
Monday	Mark 6:30-56; Psalm 71:1-14; Proverbs 13:1-4
Tuesday	Mark 7:1-23; Psalm 71:15-18; Proverbs 13:5-7
Wednesday	Mark 7:24-37; Psalm 71:19-24; Proverbs 13:8-10
Thursday	Mark 8:1-10; Psalm 72:1-8; Proverbs 13:11-13
Friday	Mark 8:11-26; Psalm 72:9-20; Proverbs 13:14-17
Saturday	Mark 8:27-9:1; Psalm 73:1-9; Proverbs 13:18-21

DEVOTIONAL: READ JOHN 21:1-25

When Jesus was put on trial and crucified, the disciples all had different responses in the midst of the chaos and accusations. In Luke 22, Peter was confronted about being a follower of Jesus three times and denied association with Jesus before each accuser. Realizing what he had done, Peter wept bitterly. Was this failure the end of Peter's ministry and relationship with Christ?

So often when we are overcome with fear, we forget who we are and compromise in an attempt to save ourselves. We hide from God. We turn our faces away from Jesus and tell ourselves we are not worthy. How could He love someone like us? We find ourselves feeling like we are back to where we were before He entered our lives. So often we see our failure as a disqualification from the call of a Christian.

For Peter, he went back to fishing and doing what he knew before. When Jesus reappeared to him after the resurrection, Peter jumped off of his

boat and swam to shore to be at the feet of Jesus. Peter abandoned all of the fish he had just caught and rushed to Jesus who was waiting for him. Jesus then asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" echoing the three times Peter denied Jesus. Three times Peter responded, "Yes, Lord," and Jesus called Peter to shepherd His sheep.

Through Jesus' resurrection, their relationship was restored and Peter was able to run back to Jesus. Then Jesus called Peter to follow Him and care for the church, bringing others to know Him. Peter was not disqualified from ministry but became a foundational leader in the church.

Like Peter, our hearts are prone to wander away from truth because of fear, insecurity, selfishness... sin. We are able to have our relationship with Jesus restored through His resurrection. Through trusting in Him, our mistakes are forgiven. We are able to declare our love for Him and show our love by feeding His sheep.

REFLECTION

What does this passage teach you about Jesus' character based on His response to Peter's actions?

What sin are you scared to bring to the feet of Jesus?

When Peter said he loved Jesus, why did Jesus say "Feed my sheep"? What could this look like in your life?

DISCUSSION

When someone or something challenges your values, what helps you stay true to your convictions?

PRAYER

Gracious Lord, forgive me for declaring my love for You one moment and then denying You the next. You have always been faithful, and have loved me, even when I deny You—either by my words or my actions. Your forgiveness heals and grants me a hope, a new calling, and a future. I desire to know You more deeply and to make You known. Renew in me each day a desire to seek You first. Make it my joy to declare Your glorious character to my own soul and to every beloved soul that You place in my path.

I give You thanks, for through Your merciful sacrifice on the cross, You have forgiven my offenses and restored sweet fellowship with me. Now I live to proclaim Your love and share Your life, so that the world may know You and that I may abide more fully in Your presence. Amen.