

5 2 W E E K S
O F G R O W T H

Give it a Year
Week 06

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John 21:15-17

“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.”

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love Me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love You.” Jesus said, “Take care of My sheep.”

The third time He said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love Me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love You.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep””

Sometimes the weight of our sins can make us not see clearly and we can lose hope for our future. The enemy will have us believe that we messed up, that God will never forgive us, that we can no longer be used by God in any way. He will lead us down a path of depression and despair that God never intended for us to go down.

Simon Peter was in Jesus' closest circle. Jesus changed his name to Peter which means "Rock" while declaring him as instrumental to begin His church. Peter was significant to Jesus' ministry. Except now, in John 21, Peter was living in the "post-denial of Christ" phase of his life. During Jesus' arrest, Peter denied knowing Jesus 3 times. Peter was Jesus' ride or die yet even he fell short and folded under the pressure. Now, he was living with the weight of this sin on his life, and he couldn't see hope for his future. So much so that he returned to fishing, his former occupation prior to Jesus calling him. Peter did what he vowed he never would have done in denying Jesus and he was overcome by the weight of letting Jesus down. He was left feeling defeated and depressed.

In this scripture, the 3rd time Jesus asked, “do you love Me?”, the Bible says, “Peter was hurt”. And we can understand why Peter was hurt. He did love Jesus despite this great sin. And now Jesus is there, and He asks Peter, not once, but 3x’s, “Do you love me?” And Jesus purposefully intended for this to be symbolic of Peter’s 3x denial. Jesus isn’t asking Peter this again, and again, and again, to remind Peter of his sin, but instead to remind him of God’s love.

Have you felt like Peter? Have you ever been stuck in the regrets of your past? Or stuck in the sins that you can’t erase from your brain? Reliving the past in our heads and forgetting that our sins are forgiven, is a barrier that keeps us from living out our calling from God. The enemy wants to keep bringing up our past so that we stay small and think that we can’t make a difference in this world. But that’s simply not true. In order to move forward, we need to ask for forgiveness, leave the past, and remember that Christ died for us to forgive even the greatest of sins.

If you are feeling stuck in your past, I encourage you to read this next sentence as if Jesus is saying it to you right now. “(INSERT YOUR NAME) Do you love me? Because My love for you is greater than that sin. My forgiveness for you is greater than that sin. Ask for forgiveness and it will be granted to you. Now forgive yourself and move forward in My grace. I love you (INSERT YOUR NAME)”

READ: John 21

REFLECT:

- Do you really believe that Christ will forgive all of your sins? Is your life reflective of that forgiveness?
- Do you tend to relive the sins of your past in your mind?
- Is there anyone in your life that you need to forgive?
- It's easy to think that if you were Peter, you would have never denied Jesus. But are there any areas of your life where you are denying knowing Jesus as Lord of your life? (think about your home life, work life, school life, friend life, etc.)

PRAYER:

Lord, we thank You that You are a good Father that forgives our sins and wipes our slate clean. We thank You that Your Son made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins if we are willing to confess them to You. God, help us to forgive ourselves and release our sins so that we no longer remember them. Help us to walk out our lives remembering what you completed on the cross. Show us daily that You have great plans for us in our future and to let go of the past. In Jesus Name I Pray. Amen.