

## Love Me Tender

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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It is a fact of life that on many occasions, the flame of love and devotion fades. For instance, the same Peter who followed and loved Jesus also failed Jesus. Peter denied Jesus three times and he wept bitterly because of what he had done. But the Lord restored Peter and he became the founding leader of the church. The same is true today. We are all parts of the body of Christ. If one of us is missing or moves away, the body of Christ will not be complete. Nevertheless, whenever we return to Jesus, He will accept and love us wholeheartedly.

### I. The close encounter of the Lord and Simon Peter

- a. Simon Peter was boastful about his love for Jesus (Lk. 22:31-34). Jesus prayed for Simon that his faith may not fail, and that he strengthens his brothers.
- b. We should encourage our brothers, sisters when they are weak, be their keepers. And when we are at our weakest point, the Lord will send someone to encourage us.
- c. Peter's failure – he forsook Jesus (Mt 26:69-75). He denied Jesus three times. Like all the others Peter moved afar.
- d. We must always be with Jesus and be careful that we don't go afar. It is better that we are with the community, we can touch and pray with each other.

### II. Peter's failure

- A. **Peter fixed his eyes on Jesus (Mt 14:27-29).** Jesus said to them: take courage! Peter walked on water.
- B. **Peter got distracted.** Peter looked on his feet in the water, and he became afraid.
  - Let us not look at our situation; we will get discouraged. Instead, let us gaze on the things unseen – faith which we do not see.
- C. **He cried out for help (Mt 14:30-33).** Even though they were with Jesus, their fear and anxiety blew away their faith (Mk 4:35-41). Jesus reached out, "... why did you doubt?"

D. **Peter was changed.** He developed a deeper relationship with the Lord.

E. **He slept instead of praying with Jesus (Mt 26:36-37).** "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow... Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." But Peter slept and did not spend time in prayer.

E. **Peter used a fleshy weapon.** He drew his sword, but the Lord told him to put his sword back.

G. **Peter was impulsive.** At the mount of transfiguration, he immediately offered to put up three shelters (Mt.17:1-4).

H. **Peter exclaimed without hesitation "you are the Messiah..."** Jesus was pleased, "I am naming you Peter...founding leader of the Church (Mt.16:13-19).

### I. **Peter found himself surrounded by the Lord's enemies.**

- We should be careful who we are with, lest we be influenced and pulled away.
- Backsliding begins in the same manner- instead of staying close, we follow from afar.
  1. Devotional life. We stop praying. We read the Bible less often.
  2. Bad company corrupts character (1Cor. 15:33).

III. **Peter was reinstated:** Peter affirmed his love for Jesus three times. Jesus gave him instructions: "Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my sheep" (Jn. 21:15-25).

### IV. **What did we learn from Peter's story?**

1. The Pain of Peter's failure (Prov 15:13). Sin robs us of our relationship with God.
2. The Price of His failure. After he sinned, he felt a loss of fellowship, peace, and joy.
3. Peter was reinstated. All of us can go back to Jesus (Mt26:33).

**Conclusion:** Peter realigned himself with Jesus. And through him, the church was born. Peter was given long life by Jesus. Let us not leave the Community. We must pray with the Community. Even the elderly can still have long service.

### **Reflection:**

What do you need to do or change today? Is your prayer life still consistent? How often are you reading the Bible? Is your service turning cold?

### **SCRIBES Ministry:**

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<https://lordsflock.org/teachings/digests>

Tags: #Love, #Restoration, #Repentance