

**“Before I Go” - Peter**  
**Passage: John 21: 15-23**

Peter's life

Matthew 14:28, Matthew 17:4, John 13:5, John 20, John 21:7

1. Self \_\_\_\_\_ yet self \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:18, Matt.19:27)
2. Gifted with \_\_\_\_\_ yet slow in getting \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt.16:17, Matt.15:15-16)
3. Two Great \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 16:16, John 6:69) yet three cowardly \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 14:68-71)

Jesus meets Peter

1. He meets him with \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 15-17)
  - “Do you love me?” (3x) - “agape”, “phileo”
  - Romans 8:31-38
    - God meets us with \_\_\_\_\_
2. He meets him with opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ God (vs. 15-17)
  - “feed...care for...feed...” // to his denials
  - We don't have to be perfect to serve God or for God to use us. There is room for failure and growth!
    - God meets us in our \_\_\_\_\_ and gives opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ Him
3. He meets him with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ him to real commitment to Jesus Christ (vs. 18-21)
  - “Follow me” (vs. 19) - // Luke 5/Matthew 4
  - Jesus challenges us to follow Him no matter the cost.
    - God meets us with the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Him no matter the cost.

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**Passage : John 21: 15-23**

Peter's life

Reactive/Eager

1. Matt 14:28 – Jesus “don't be afraid.” Peter - “Lord if it is you, tell me to come to \_\_\_\_\_ you on the water”
2. Matthew 17:4 – Jesus' transfiguration – “Let me put up three shelters for you, \_\_\_\_\_ Moses, Elijah” – not phased but responsive
3. John 13:5 – Jesus washing the disciples feet - “you'll never wash my feet. Unless I do you have nothing to do with me. Wash my hands and head too!”
4. John 20 – ran to the tomb, 2<sup>nd</sup> to arrive but first to enter empty tomb”
5. John 21:7 – here - “jumped into the water at the sight of Jesus”

Contradictory

1. Self sacrificing yet also self seeking – Mark 1:18 (at once they left their nets and followed Him), yet Matt.19:27 (we have left everything for you...what will be there for us?)
2. Gifted with Spiritual Insight yet slow in “getting deeper truths” – Matthew 16:17 (Jesus said, blessed are you Simon son of Jonah for this was not revealed to you by man but by my Father in Heaven”) yet Matt.15:15-16 (parable of clean and unclean – Peter - “explain it to us”... Jesus - “are you still so dull?”)
3. Two Great Confessions – Matt. 16:16 - “you are the Christ, the son of the living God”, John 6:69 – many deserted him because of the hard teaching – “To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are Holy one of God”  
Yet  
Three cowardly denials – Mark 14:68-71 – Servant girl – you were with the Nazarene. “I don't know or understand what you're talking about,”...left but when the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow

is one of them.” Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”

He resonates with us.

- Time when we are very eager and step out in faith eagerly for God like Peter
- Times when we make bold statements about God and yet others when we are so unsure of other people’s reactions that we remain silent
  - It is this place that Jesus meets Peter, and for that matter us!

Jesus meets him

1. He meets him with love (vs. 15-17)

- “Do you love me?” (3x)
  - Words used for “Love” Jesus – Sacrificial (agape)love 2x, Peter – brotherly (phileo) love, third time – Jesus – brotherly, Peter - brotherly
- Could have done the “I told you so!”, or in disgust, anger...but instead acts in love
- God affirms love even/especially in our failures – not the harsh God we sometimes imagine Him to be
  - Ex. Adam and Eve Gen.3 – hiding, ashamed, there is punishment for sin. But God calls out to them...God tells that Satan will be defeated...God clothes them in their shame. Do you picture God as meeting with you in our failures as the God of love?
  - Romans 8:31-38 - <sup>31</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>32</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,<sup>33</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
    - God meets us with love

2. He meets him with an opportunity to serve God (vs. 15-17)

- He will be caring for God’s people once Jesus leaves (vs. 15-17) - “feed...care for...feed...” // to his denials after Jesus arrest
- Many of us would have written Peter off.... he never follows through”, “he talks a good talk but can’t walk it”,

“inconsistent”, “he just denied even knowing Jesus...how could he serve Him?” Many of us would have written off Peter...but God doesn’t.

- We don’t have to be perfect to serve God, for God to use us. There is room for failure and growth!
  - Some people never try to serve because they do not think they are good enough, talented enough, smart enough. They feel they need to be perfect before God can use them. But 1 Cor. 1:27 Says, **“God purposely chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the powerful.”** God pours His strength into weak imperfect people. God is never limited by our limitations. 2 Cor.4:7 – **“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.**
    - God meets us in our weakness with opportunity to serve Him

3. He meets him with affirmation and challenges him to real commitment to Jesus Christ (vs. 18-21)

- Powerful verse – “when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, someone else will dress you, lead you to where you don’t want to go” – Jesus prophesies that Peter – reactive, inconsistent, contradictory...will die because of His faith in Jesus - tradition has it the Peter was crucified upside down because he did not feel worthy to die like Jesus
- “Follow me” (vs. 19) - // to his calling in Luke 5/Matthew 4 – (fishing, throw nets out deeper, and “Come follow me/fishers of men”) = bookends of his life and death
  - Jesus tells Peter that He will stand firm to the end – the coward will become martyr = Courageous and Solid – Acts 2: testimony about Jesus before the huge crowd of Pentecost. First 13 chapters of Acts full of Peter’s courageous faith. But also that it will cost him his life.
  - Jesus challenges us to follow Him no matter the cost.

- God meets us with the challenge to follow Him no matter the cost.
- Some times we live an immature faith – one that does what we want (wear/go) most of the time and occasionally fits God into our plans. But Jesus calls us to mature faith – one that will follow Him no matter the cost.
- Kind we have seen - \$\$ to Hope Awaits - spontaneous & planned compassion experiences - student speaks up - serving

Before He left, Jesus wanted Peter and us to know

- He meets us with love
- He meets us with the opportunity to serve Him, even in our weakness
- He meets us affirming us and challenging us to really follow Him