

## 4-8-2026 – Turn Back & Strengthen

Returning to Jesus. It's something most have done at some time.

We call it repent moments. . . maybe living life on our terms. We're lord.

Or maybe a crisis of faith . . . can I really trust God?

Peter had such a moment. Nothing made sense. Where do I go /do what?

Everything he'd counted on for 3 years... **Jesus gone; he failed.**

We know the **beach** scene... **John 21.**

Peter - a born leader - says, "I'm going out to fish."

7 disciples together - they said, "We'll go with you."

Jesus: fish? Throw net on the right side of the boat.

① - Many of us have been throwing nets on wrong side.

Been looking for fulfillment in what we've known... doesn't last.

- Making our own nets ... doing what we want ... not seeking God

When we **cast our nets toward Jesus**, we **find** what we've been **seeking**

- Not just some ... **abundance**. All happened b/c willing to **trust**.

Beach was 3<sup>rd</sup> time Jesus appeared to them. 3 chances for Peter /affirm love.

② - Shows the **patience** of God ... gives do-overs. Multiple opportunities.

**Like Peter, our future isn't determined by our failures.** God's not **angry**.

This beach moment is turning point for Peter. It's what Jesus prayed for.

- Luke 22:31-34 NIV - **"<sup>31</sup> Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."** <sup>33</sup> -

Peter - "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus: **"before the rooster crows... you'll deny 3x that U know me."**

- ③ - Jesus knows Peter like God **knows us**. And - Jesus was an **intercessor**
- Jesus wants to be sure his **faith will not fail**. Has deep concern for his spiritual well being. . . life can gut punch us. It will happen! We may **fail**
  - When it does – know that Jesus is there for you, too.
    - [Romans 8:34](#) – “Who is there to condemn us? For Christ Jesus, who died, and more than that was raised to life, is at the right hand of God—and He is interceding for us.”

When the seasons of life puzzle us, know they aren't a surprise for God.

- He knew it would happen, and He will use it for glory.

When in that season - know the promises of God to get you thru:

- “All things work for good.” Trials of our faith work to better us.
- [Zechariah 13:9](#) – “I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold.”
- The testing of our faith perfects us & matures us “so we are complete, lacking nothing.” – [James 1:3-4](#).

- ④ - We can look at our trials as setbacks & be bitter - OR look at them as God's **provision for perfection**.

We may have Doubt: **can God use me now?** Yes.

- Look again at [Romans 8:34](#) – “Who is there to condemn us?”
- People may. . . but not Jesus. No condemnation. He's praying!  
Interceding!

- David – far from perfect. Bad father/bad husband... killed.
- Paul – complicit in murder; stoning/Stephen; he struggled with sin - “what I want to do, I don't; what I hate, I do.”
- Peter – denied Jesus.
  - God used them, God can use you, too.

- ⑤ - **God works thru imperfect people to accomplish His perfect will.**

Peter was having a faith crisis. We know it b/c . . . .

1. there's no story of Peter fishing since his calling from Jesus til this
2. the Prayer of Jesus before hand
3. the Disciples had been hidden away/behind locked doors.

Most people will have similar moments. How do we get back on track?

- **6** - **Need a meeting with Jesus.**
  - o **Need to affirm** our love for Jesus/what He did for us.
  - o **Need to confess** our weakness / fear / failure.
  - o **Need to turn back to Jesus.** Repent. Relinquish control. His way.

There is still more in store for your life. If not, we wouldn't still be living

- Peter was called to "Feed my sheep." "Follow me" ... talk w/Jesus
  - o "And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."
  - o **NLT** – "So when you have **repented** and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."
- 7** - We have the same calling – strengthen each other.
  - **Encourage each other.** Your story is someone else's story.
  - o **1 Thess. 5:11 - [NLT](#)** – "So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing."

We're going to pray in just a sec - Repent, and return.

- A crisis of faith is a chance to come back strong. Peter did; us, too.
  - o **[1 Peter 5:10](#)** – "after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will **Himself restore you, secure you, strengthen you, & establish you.**"