



John 21:1-17

From Failure to Restoration - June 28, 2026

Message Recap

Failure has a way of convincing us that it defines us. Peter knew that feeling well. After boldly declaring his loyalty to Jesus, he denied Him three times and was left carrying deep shame and regret. But when Jesus met Peter on the shore after the resurrection, He didn't come to condemn him, but came to restore him.

Instead of focusing on Peter's failure, Jesus focused on their relationship, asking one simple but powerful question: **"Do you love Me?"** Jesus reminded Peter that His grace is greater than our greatest failures and that genuine love for Christ leads to a transformed life. The same Jesus who restored Peter still meets us in our weakness today, offering forgiveness, purpose, and a fresh start

Icebreaker / Personal Reflection

- **Icebreaker:**

What's one embarrassing moment from your childhood or teenage years that you can laugh about now?

- **Reflection:**

What part of the message resonated with you the most?

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Stephen said, "Jesus walks toward our failures instead of away from them." Why do you think that's so difficult for us to believe when we've messed up?
2. Peter returned to fishing because it was familiar. What are some "comfortable" places people retreat to instead of moving toward God during difficult seasons?
3. What's the difference between remembering your past and being controlled by your past? How can you tell when you've crossed that line?
4. Where do you see the tension between accepting God's grace and actively pursuing transformation? Why are both necessary?
5. What does it practically look like to "feed My sheep" in everyday life—not just in church leadership?

For Additional Study

Read: Luke 22:31-34; Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19

- What differences do you notice between Peter before his failure and Peter after his restoration?
- Why do you think Jesus allowed Peter to publicly reaffirm his love three times?
- What does Peter's story teach us about how God uses imperfect people?

Read: Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 3:13-14

- What's the difference between conviction from the Holy Spirit and shame from the enemy?
- Which of these passages is most encouraging to you right now? Why?
- What would it look like to leave behind your past and move forward in the purpose God has for you?