

Apr 23, 2023



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Once we accept God's hand in peace, we're given the important task of bringing that message to others

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

God, thank You for not leaving me in a place of no hope, separated from You forever. Thank You that the sacrifice of Your beloved Son, Jesus, has provided the way for me to come to You

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation

(2 Cor 5:18 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 01, 2019)

Series: Jesus Calls Us

UNIT 3: The Birth of the Church

NEXT WEEK

**Jesus Makes a Promise
(Acts 1:1-11)**

Jesus Reinstates Peter John 21:15-19

Lesson Background and Introduction

Our story today is also one of redemption. But it is not the story of a man who failed and then brought himself to a redemptive success. Instead, it is the story of the Lord who called the man to accept redemption. We note that the focus narrows from the disciples in general to Peter specifically. But keep in mind that as Jesus and Simon Peter speak, they are still in the presence of the others, including John. The New Testament testifies in various ways to Peter's unique and ongoing role in Jesus' ministry and in the earliest life of the church. Along with Paul, Peter stands out among the apostles in terms of his fame and influence. Peter (also known as "Cephas"; John 1:42) was one of three apostles considered by Paul to be "pillars" of the church (Galatians 2:9). Peter emerged early on as a leader, bold in word and deed (examples: Acts 2:14-41; 3:1-10). He was among the first to recognize that when Jesus told his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), he really did mean to go to Gentiles without requiring them to take up Jewish practices before accepting him (Acts 10:9-11:18; 15:6-11). Peter's influence resounded throughout the church. The impact of the events of today's text are therefore incalculable.

Peter stands out as a model disciple for a number of other reasons. First, Peter was not unique in his need for redemption. All of us stand before Jesus needing redemption, being incapable of accomplishing it for ourselves. Just as Jesus did for Peter, so also Jesus does for us. He made the first move toward our redemption long ago on the cross and continues to invite us to accept his sacrifice as the atonement for our own sins (Romans 3:25). God's grace is magnified by the fact that Jesus himself, the offended party, initiated the process. This is consistent with the biblical story in which God, who is always the offended party, initiates reconciliation with sinful humanity. Second, Peter's redemption resulted in commission. Like Peter, we confess our love for our Lord and Savior. Doing so must result in our commitment to living lives that parallel Jesus' own: being more concerned about the will of the Father than with our own agendas (Matthew 16:24-27; John 14:23-24). Though how we each live out Jesus' commission varies based on our circumstances, each of us is called to the life of faith. Third, our commission comes with knowledge of what our faithfulness can cost us. Like Peter, we accept the call with the clear understanding that because Christ suffered and we are his, we too expect the life of faith to entail suffering (John 15:18-16:4), just as Peter's did. Sometimes this means physical suffering or even death at the hands of the world (example: Acts 7:54-60). Sometimes it means enduring shame and torment for righteousness' sake. Fourth, like Peter's pain, our own suffering comes with a promise. When we suffer like Christ and for godly purposes, we bring glory to the Lord—no matter how humiliating the world might believe our plight to be (Matthew 5:10-12). None of us today have had an encounter with Christ like Peter did. But when you tell the story of how God has redeemed you, what role do believers like Peter play? In whose redemption story do you (or should you) play a role?

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Jesus Questions Peter about Love (John 21:15-17)

Love so that we can nurture others (15)

- Nurturing the weak (1 Kings 19:5-8)
- Nurturing the needy (2 Kings 4:2-6)
- Nurturing through others (2 Cor 8:14)
- Nurturing by God's supplying directly (2 Cor 9:10)
- Nurturing through God's glorious riches (Phil 4:19)

Love so that we can lead others (16)

- Leadership that leads to justification (Gal 3:24)
- Leadership that leads to the right way (Mark 10:32)
- Leadership that leads to the Father God (John 14:6)
- Leadership that leads to a cleared way (1 Thess 3:11)

Love so that we pass knowledge on to others (17)

- A knowledge of God that comes from Christians being a shining light (2 Cor 4:6)
- Knowledge that comes from the anointing of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:20)
- A knowledge that gives us an understanding that God is the "true" God (1 John 5:20)
- Knowledge that is eternal life (John 17:3)

Peter Responding to Jesus' Call (John 21:18-19)

Responding by seeking God's guidance (18)

- Guidance that is part of God's plan for our life (Jer 29:11)
- Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)
- Guidance that is not under the law (Gal 5:18)
- Guidance that represents we are a child of God (Rom 8:14)

Responding by glorifying God in all we do (19)

- Glorifying God is part of praise and worship (Ps 34:3)
- All Christians should glorify God by the good lives they live (1 Peter 2:12)
- Sometimes sickness is used so that God might be glorified (John 11:4)
- Glorifying God through our transformed lives (2 Cor 3:18)