



**Part 5:
Unfinished Business**

**Pastor Grant Fishbook
March 29 & 30, 2008**

The Unfinished Business Between Jesus and Peter

The Failure

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But he denied it before them all.

"I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

After a little while, those standing there

went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."

Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

- *Matthew 26:69-75*

Failures are neither final nor fatal.

Your failure does not diminish or alter the truth.

The Fishing

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they

were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. - *John 21:4-14*

You can go faster alone ,

but further together.

(Continues on back)

The Forgiveness

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was

hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?"

He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. - *John 21:15-19a*

Principles of Restoration

1. Commit yourself to running to God in times of failure and not away from God because you are ashamed (*verse 7*)
2. Keep the circle of restoration the same size as the circle of offense (*verse 15*)
3. Keep God's grace in the forefront (*verses 15-18*)
4. Keep the Enemy silent – you have not been disqualified! (*verses 15-18*)
5. Confess your love for Christ and His truth (*verse 17*)

The Final Call

Then he said to him, "Follow me!" - *John 21:19b*

On Your Way Home:

Considering the fact that Peter denied Christ three times, what do you think he was going through his mind when he found out that Jesus was alive?

Group Life Discussion Questions



- 1) A question for those who fish: What is your primary reason for going fishing? A question for those who don't fish: Why do you think people go fishing?
- 2) In your opinion, what emotions do you think Peter dealt with after finding out that Jesus was alive? Try and think beyond "guilt."
- 3) Jesus both forgives and restores Peter. Why do think it's important to do both? Are we called to do both?
- 4) What role is Peter restored to? Why is the role important?
- 5) Jesus' final admonition to Peter was "Follow me!" What does it mean to follow God after you have failed?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?