Character Studies

Week 8

Peter: Failure to Restoration to Mission

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp — Reston Bible Church — Sunday, August 30, 2026

Peter: Failure To Restoration To Mission

CHARACTER Studies

- Background
- Failure
- Restoration
- Mission

The Background

After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

John 13:21 ESV

Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone…

John 16:32 ESV

Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”

Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.”

John 13:36-38 ESV

Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

Matthew 26:33 ESV

Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

Matthew 26:35 ESV

So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

John 18:3 ESV

Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

John 18:10-11 ESV

Sword - Machaira - large knife, short sword.
For many purposes, including shaving.

When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

John 18:6 ESV

But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.

Luke 22:51 ESV

And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end.

Matthew 26:58 ESV

The Failure – The Denial

And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.” But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

The Failure – The Denial

And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:59-62 ESV

CHARACTER Studies

Wept – Klaio – to cry freely and profusely from sadness or distress. To wail

Bitterly – Pikros – expressing great anguish and pain, with agony

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way.

John 21:1 ESV

CHARACTER Studies

The Restoration

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

The Restoration

He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

The Restoration

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

The Restoration

“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.”

The Restoration

(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

John 21:15-19 ESV

More than these

Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep

Follow Me – the first and last call of Jesus

The Mission

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The Mission

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Acts 1:8-9 ESV

So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

Acts 4:18-20 ESV

- Background – The Upper Room
- The Failure – Peter Denies Jesus
- The Restoration – Do you love me more than these?
- The Mission – We cannot stop speaking

Encounter with the Risen Christ

Power of the Holy Spirit

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

James 5:16 ESV