

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH
IXa. PETER'S RESTORATION AFTER DENIAL A.
Sometime Early Iyar (late April), A.D. 33

John 21:1-15

“¹After these-things /Jesus displayed Himself again to-the disciples /of-His\ by the Sea of Teebehreeáhs. Then He-displayed [Himself] in-this-way. ²Simon Peter and Thōmahs, the-one⁺ termed[being said] Dée-dumohs^[twin], and Nahthahnah-áyl, the-one⁺ from Kahnáh of /Galilee, and the /sons^[ones+] of-the Zebedee and two others^[same kind] of-the disciples of-His were-continuing-together. ³Simon Peter says to-them, I-am-slipping-away to-fish-continually. They-say to-him, Ourselves also, we-are-going-together [in association]with you[§]. They-exited and directly climbed^[ascended] into the boat and in-that /nightthey-caught not-one-thing. ⁴But when-it-became daybreak [just after dawn] already, /Jesus stood at the seashore. However the disciples had-not-perceived that it-is Jesus. ⁵Then /Jesus says to-them, O-educable-children![!] &You-are-not-having something edible, are-you? They-answered Him, No! ⁶Then He-said to-them, Cast thenetontothe right& parts of-the boat and &you-shall find! Therefore they-cast and they-were-prevailing to-draw it no-longer on-account-of the multitude of-the fish&. ⁷Therefore that /disciple whom /Jesus was-continually-loving^[sovereignly preferring over self and others] says to-the Peter, It-is The Lord. Then when-Simon Peter-heard, “It-is The Lord,” he-firmly-girded his outer-garb about himself (for he-was naked), and he-cast himself into the sea. ⁸Then the other^[same kind] disciples came in-a-little-boat (for they-were not far-off from the land, but [on-the-contrary] from about two-hundred cubits^[300 yds.] away), dragging the net of-the fish&. ⁹Then as they-disembarked onto the land, they-see a-charcoal-fire lying and small-fish& and a-bread-loaf lying-upon lit. ¹⁰/Jesus says to-them, Bring-at-once from the small-fish& which &you-caught now! ¹¹Simon Peter ascended and he-drew the net loaded-to-capacity with an-hundred-fifty-three^[50 x 3 + 3] great fish& upon the land. And although-being so-many, the net was-not-split^[caused-a-schism]. ¹²/Jesus says to-them, Come here! Eat& breakfast! And not-one⁺ of-the disciples was-boldly-daring to-interrogate Him, Yourself, Who are You[§]? Because they-were-perceiving, “It-is The Lord.”¹³Then /Jesus comes and He-takes the bread-loaf and He-gives to-them. And in-like-manner the small-cooked-fish&. ¹⁴This is already ⁰third |time| /Jesus was-displayed to-His /disciples after-being-raised-up out-of ⁰dead-ones. ¹⁵Then when they-finished-eating-breakfast, /Jesus says to-the Simon Peter, Simon of-Jonah^[Yōnáhs], [§]Are-you-persistently-loving^[sovereignly preferring over self and others] Me more than-these^{[men or things (fish, nets, and boat) or both]?} He-says to-Him, Yes, Lord! Yourself, You-perceive^[are-aware] that I-am-persistently-fond-of^[tenderly-affectionate-toward] You[§]. He-says to-him, Persistently-feed the lambs of-Mine!”

Introduction:

Eight lessons ago when we considered the Passover Seder and what followed in the late evening into the night as Jesus warned His disciples of the events that shall transpire within the following eighteen hours. Before He announced to Peter that Peter would deny Him three times before a rooster first crows, He told Peter that Satan demanded him for himself. The Lord Jesus stated, “³²But Myself, I-supplcated concerning you[§], Peter, in-order-that the faith^[committed trust] of-yours fail not. And once [§]you-are-converted, confirm the brothers of-yours!” (Lk. 22:31,32 APT). This indicated that Peter had faith in the Lord Jesus Christ but He was not converted. But after He was

converted followed by regeneration He became responsible to strengthen his brothers in Christ.

If we trace the life of Peter and take note that that night Satan did possess him and caused him to forsake the Lord Jesus in His hour of suffering. Back in the beginning ministry of The Lord Jesus Christ, Peter attempted to follow and walk with The Lord Jesus Christ three times but each time he turned back after a while from following The Lord Jesus. Then after the third time of restoration to walk with The Lord Jesus Christ, Peter denied Him three times twice, just as Jesus twice predicted that he would deny Him during the night before it occurred. Why did he deny Him? Because he was not spiritually converted (Lk. 22:31,32), for if he had been converted, Jesus would not have said, “once ^syou-are-converted.” Therefore Peter needed to be converted spiritually, not just mentally and doctrinally. The Lord Jesus Christ’s concern was for Peter to experience this **complete conversion**. The night before His crucifixion The Lord Jesus Christ promised to return for His disciples (Jn. 14:1-3). But Peter would be left out and left behind after his blatant denial (Mt. 10:33, please read) unless he became converted and restored after His Resurrection-Ascension.

Even though a disciple of The Lord Jesus Christ, He must be spiritually converted in order to be taken up with The Lord Jesus Christ when He comes again. So must you!! And so must I!! This is why The Lord Jesus told Peter (Lk. 22:31,32 APT).

Then after His Resurrection-Ascension during the following forty days, The Lord Jesus very specifically and deliberately took steps to restore Peter to fellowship and discipleship before He ascended to Heaven the second time after His Resurrection-Ascension on the third day after crucifixion. To properly understand the differentiation between conversion and regeneration we must consider three factors: (1) The Preparation For Peter’s Restoration, (2) The Process of Peter’s Restoration, and The Proof of Peter’s Restoration. I would that some one had explained this Truth to me over fifty-five years ago.

I. The Preparation For Peter’s Restoration.

A. The Concern for Peter’s Restoration.

1. The Order of the Angel to Mary **Mahgdahlaynáy** (Mk. 16:7).
“Say to-the disciples of-His and to /Peter, ‘He-leads-before you& unto /Galilee! ^sYou-shall-behold Him there according-as He-said to-you&” (Mk. 16:7 APT)

It was necessary for Peter to go back to where he first met Jesus to renew his initial commitment and to follow Him afresh with renewed vigor. When professing believers in The Lord Jesus Christ seriously go astray from Him, we must go back to where we first started to follow Him as Peter did. Most often those who seriously go astray in publicly denying The Lord Jesus Christ as Peter did, we want to just pick up where we left off thinking we did accept Him once, but without seriously considering the consequences that our previous behavior invoked. But The Lord Jesus persisted with Peter until he recognized and confessed his lack of true love, sovereignly preferring The Lord Jesus Christ above all others (both people and things) and substituting affection instead.

Why Galilee? Because that is where Peter’s restoration will take place (Jn. 21:1) and where The Lord Jesus Christ would give His disciples their final instructions and last command (Mt. 28:16-20).

2. The Obedience of Mary **Mahgdahlaynáy** to tell His disciples and Peter (Mk. 16:7).

She did exactly what she was told to do and left nothing out.

B. The Confirmation of Christ's Resurrection (Jn. 20:1-9).

1. Jesus' Apparel: the linen clothes and napkin in the empty tomb observed by Peter (Jn. 20:6-8).

2. Jesus' Appearance to Simon Peter (Lk. 24:33,34 cf. 1 Cor. 15:5).
The description of this appearance is not recorded in Scripture.

Only the report of the fact that Jesus did appear to Peter is recorded. These two facts confirmed to Peter that his Lord was resurrected, but still not believed.

C. The Carnality of Peter (21:2-3).

“²Simon Peter and **Thōmahs**, the-one⁺ termed^[being said] **Dēedumohs**^[twin], and **Nahthahnah-áyl**, the-one⁺ from **Kahnáh** of-the Galilee, and the ^{[sons^[ones+]]] and two others^[same kind] of-the disciples of-His were-continuing-together. ³Simon Peter says to-them, I-am-slipping-away to-fish-continually. They-say-to-him, Ourselves also, we-are-going-together ^[in association]with you⁵. They-exited and directly climbed^[ascended] into the boat and in-that /night they-caught not-one-thing” (Jn. 21:2,3 APT).}

There are three wrongs here.

1. Wrong Decision - under control of self (v. 3) - The concept of departure is reflected in the use of tense of the verb (present tense, tense of duration is used with no ending limit) indicating that Peter has decided to return to the fishing business and not just a one day or one week or one month occasion but permanently.

2. Wrong Direction - leading others astray (v. 3) - with a wrong influence. Peter has a strong influence on the other disciples. After all He was the older brother of Andrew, one of the first two disciples of John the Baptizer who led his brother to Christ (Jn. 1:37-42). He also was the first named in the list of the twelve disciples (Mk. 3:16-19; Mt. 10:2-4; Lk. 6:14-16). And he often became the spokesman and appeared to be the leader of the twelve.

3. Wrong Demeanor - fruitless (v. 3) discouraged (v. 5), unclothed (v. 7), and hungry (v. 12).

II. The Process of Peter's Restoration - Spiritual Conversion (21:2-22).

A. The Circumstances:

1. A Frustrating Morning in Galilee (vs. 3b-5).

After spending the whole night casting and dragging nets fruitlessly, having caught nothing, they surely must have been frustrated and perhaps even wondering if it was such a good idea to go back to fishing.

2. A Familiar Miracle (vs. 6,8,11) multiplication of fish to feed the people -- 153 (50x3+3) great fishes. But didn't Jesus perform a suchlike miracle before this? Certainly this miracle triggered the disciples' memory! But notice the emphasis on the number three in the total number of great fish, no doubt used to remind Peter of His three denials twice, three before the first cockcrow and three more thereafter and before the second cock-crow. Fifty times three, plus three more.

3. A Forceful Manifestation of Jesus' power and insight - miraculously fed for the third time (vs. 12-1) - emphasis upon the number three. He fed the multitude of 5000 (Mt. 14:15-21) and 4000 men plus women and children (Mt. 15:31-38).

B. The Confrontation with Peter and the question asked three times:

1. It Revealed inadequacy of his love - self-denying, self-renouncing, self-surrendering, self-sacrificing love. “More than these?” (v. 15 cf. Mt. 26:31,33; Mk. 14:27,29) -- genitive pl. = men or things or both: fishing equipment, fish, disciples. Peter’s assignment: “Persistently feed my lambs!”

2. It Reversed his indifference to love -- Peter’s assignment. “Persistently shepherd my sheep!”

3. It Reversed his direction in love -- Peter’s affection. “Persistently feed my sheep!”

The Searching Question Searches: Sin, Stubbornness, and Selfishness and calls for Sacrifice, Surrender, and Complete Submission.

4. It Restored his relationship in discipleship and his fellowship, but he still was not regenerated until Pentecost.

III. The Proof of Peter’s Restoration (vs. 18-20).

A. He began to determinedly follow in discipleship unto the end in face of hardship, even though aware of painful death (Jn 21:18,19)

B. He was again looking for His coming and living like he was.

C. Scripture records that ‘Peter was wholly turned’ (21:20) The Greek word translated ‘wholly turned’ is **ἐπιστραφείς** (epestrafeh-ées) which is an aorist 2 passive temporal participle. This indicates that the action of the participle is considered to have taken place prior to the action of the main verb. The verb **ἐπιστρέφω** (epestréfō) which is composed of the verb **στρέφω** (stréfō) which in the middle voice refers to change of direction means ‘turn oneself about, change one’s course or direction, but in the active or passive voice it refers ‘to conversion and complete change of life and when the prefixed preposition **ἐπί** (epí) is added it indicates intensification and completeness. So whether **ἐπιστρέφω** is translated ‘was wholly turned’ or ‘was converted,’ either meaning is accepted according to context. Not only does this indicate that after this encounter with The Lord Jesus Christ Peter was walking and following The Lord in restored fellowship and discipleship, but he also was concerned about John, the beloved disciple. Although this statement indicates Peter’s restoration, he still displayed his carnal nature until after Pentecost. Note his carnal concern about John’s future and what The Lord’s plan for him was which was none of his business and The Lord Jesus implied as much when He asked Peter, ‘What is it to You?’ (Jn. 21:22c APT). We will suspend further consideration of The Proof of Conversion There is also another incident of display of the flesh before Pentecost which will be considered in a lesson after The Lord Jesus Christ Ascends to be seated on His Throne back to His Father in Heaven.

Conclusion:

Today we considered the preparation for Peter’s restoration. First by the order of the angel to Mary **Mahgdahlaynáy** and her obedience to inform Peter of Christ’s resurrection and the message to meet Him in Galilee. Then He appeared unto Peter that day and later that first evening to the two disciples on the **Ehmmah-óús** Road and late in the second to the eleven disciples plus the two, **Kleh-óh-pahs** and Mary his wife. Later He confronted Peter on the shore of the Sea of Galilee concerning his conversion. Finally, we considered the proof of Peter’s restoration, noting the verbal participle that Jesus used to indicate that Peter resumed his walking with The Lord Jesus Christ, However Peter was still thinking carnally until after Pentecost.

Peter needed to be restored and prepared for regeneration! So do you! and so do I! Unless you and I are regenerated, there is no hope of Heaven. If Peter was not converted and because he denied The Lord Jesus Christ not one but six times. But only once is enough to insure that The Lord Jesus Christ shall deny you before His Father in The Day of Judgment. The Lord Jesus Christ's return in the air or death will mean Eternal Punishment for you if not regenerated! But right NOW, He has come here to meet you. He wants to reveal your inadequacy of love for Him, reverse your indifference, and reverse your direction in love! How will you respond?

Application:

What will you do with The Lord Jesus Christ Who waits at your heart's door to complete your conversion, change your life, cleanse your sin, forgive you, and give you New Absolute Eternal Life? The decision is yours!! But once it is made whether positively or negatively, it is everlasting! How will you seal your choice **NOW**?

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For next week: Read and meditate upon: **The Restoration of Peter and Jesus' Searching Questions 1 & 2** (Jn. 21:14-15).