

EASTER WITH MAC & CHEEZ

Week 4

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Read: John 20:1-10, John 21:1-19

After Peter's denial of Jesus, he went back to the life he knew before meeting Jesus: fishing. Maybe he assumed he wasn't worth the "fishing for men" that Jesus had called him to three years ago.

But Jesus showed up at the sea again. Again, he asked Peter and the disciples to cast their perpetually empty nets; and again, they caught more fish than their boat could handle. Three years prior, this exact storyline played out and Peter had little understanding of who Jesus was. This time there was no question of who Jesus was. Peter just needed to be reminded.

We all need to be reminded. We all forget that Jesus is a powerful miracle worker, ready and able to forgive us. Peter was a man who had screwed up in a big way, and he needed to be reminded that his past didn't disqualify him from the life Jesus had for him. Jesus took Peter aside after breakfast and asked him three times if he loved him. The Bible tells us that Peter's heart was grieved because Jesus kept asking him to declare his love. But Jesus was being intentional.

Three denials. Three chances to re-commit. Full forgiveness.

Jesus reminded Peter who he really was – not a fisherman, but a fisher of men. Jesus reaffirmed Peter's calling to shepherd people into relationship with Jesus and bring them back into God's kingdom.

Like Peter, when we feel the full weight of our sin, we can appreciate the fullness of forgiveness Jesus has for us. It may feel a lot like grief to go back to the dead parts of our lives. But Jesus is intentional with us, too. He doesn't waste a single part of our story, even the parts we would re-do if we could. In fact, it was exactly because Peter had screwed up so badly that he was able to so powerfully preach the grace of Jesus. He was uniquely able to meet people in their worst moments and tell the story of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

The story of Peter reminds us that our past does not disqualify us. Jesus fully forgives us. The worst moments of our lives might actually be the ones that most clearly and loudly tell the story of God's amazing grace.

In light of this story, if you had breakfast with Jesus after one of the worst moments of your life, what do you think he would say to you?

How have you seen your life tell the story of God's grace and forgiveness? (It might be helpful to ask a spouse or a good friend to answer this for you.)