

Series: **Peter: The Transformed Life**  
Text **John 21:12-19**  
Title: **Breakfast with Jesus**

### **Intro:**

Does Jesus write people off because they have failed Him in some way?

Does Jesus give His children second chances?

If you have failed God in some way, then see how Jesus is in the business of transforming the broken into the beautiful.

I've talked with many people who have shared about some failure in their life and how *they wished they could erase the past start all over again.*

### **Question: Can God use me, considering how sinful my past is?**

We may consider ourselves too inadequate, too prone to failure, or just too sinful to serve an almighty, all powerful, and holy God.

Isaiah said, "Woe is me" when he was confronted with the presence of the Lord, yet he declared, "Here am I, send me."

When face to face with the glorified Christ in the Revelation, John fell at his feet as a dead man, yet he wrote the Book of Revelation as the Lord directed him.

The point is it's too easy for us to sit back and think that God cannot use us because we don't have certain abilities or opportunities that other people have.

- It's too easy to think that God is so great He couldn't possibly need me to do something for Him.
- And it's much too easy to believe that God can't use me because of the sins of my past.
- This is the point I want to focus on today.
- This is a lie of the devil, as we can see by studying the life of the Apostle Peter.

Here we will find that, in spite of our sin, God wants to use us and equips us to be fit for the Master's service.

### **Setting:**

- Jesus has risen from the dead, three days after Passover, likely two weeks prior
- Passover 30AD – April 25<sup>th</sup>
- April 28<sup>th</sup> Rises and appears to Disciples.
  - Peter saw him - 1 Corinthians 15:5
    - <sup>4</sup> *that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*
    - <sup>5</sup> *and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.*
  - The disciples minus Thomas saw him.
- Eight days later – May 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Then all of them saw Him.
  - This is 11 days after Passover / 39 short of Pentecost.

- Somewhere, late spring, between May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Likely earlier... (mid-May) How many days would He not be with them before having the third appearance.
- Forty days revealed Himself
  - Acts 1:3 <sup>3</sup>*He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*
- Walk to Jerusalem –
  - Ascension at forty days – June 7<sup>th</sup>
- Fifty days from Passover to Pentecost – June 17<sup>th</sup> 30AD
  - Acts 1:5 *“...for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*
- A while later likely early May– they are back to fishing. At Galilee – the sea of Tiberius
  - They have not caught anything.
  - Jesus asks how their fishing was going and then told them to cast on the other side – Massive catch, 153 fish.
  - John says that He thinks it is Jesus and Peter throws on a cloak and dives into the water.
  - They bring the load of fish in and see that there was a fire started on the beach. And a fish and a loaf of bread is there.
  - A small fire to stay warm by....
    - Reminiscent of a fire that Peter sat by just over a week earlier.
    - A place of denial, a place of shame.

## Invitation to Restoration

### John 21:12-14

<sup>12</sup>*Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord.* <sup>13</sup>*Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.*

<sup>14</sup>*This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.*

- Jesus invites them and you to come and eat.
  - Come and sit with him to discuss the things that are holding you back.
  - Let us sit in this remembrance of your shame that we might once and for all set you free from the guilt.
  - Jesus is always saying to you and me, “COME!”
- They knew but did not ask.
- A loaf and a fish
  - The catch of fish was not necessary for them to eat. He had sufficient food in the one fish and one loaf to feed them all and thousands more if He chose.
  - This catch was a book end for them....
    - He had performed the exact miracle when they were called the first time.

- Now he performs it again for a second call to them.
- In this they knew exactly who it was. The catch was likely a means to give them the resources they would need in the weeks and months to come.
  - Where Jesus guides. Jesus provides

## Restoration Before Commission

### John 21:15-17

<sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> 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.” <sup>17</sup> 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.

- A side conversation with Peter:
  - In front of others...likely.
  - Jesus’ uses His full name.
    - Simon, son of John – Reed
  - At a fire that was so like the place of his denial.
  - And then he asks three times a question of relationship corresponding to the three denials.

## Understanding love

### Greek

*Phileo* (brotherly Love)

*Eros* ( Passionate Love)

*Ludus* – (Playful Love)

*Philautia* – (Self love)

*Mania* – (Obsessive love)

*Pragma* – (Committed love)

*Agape* – (selfless Love)

### Hebrew

*Ahav* (love)

*Racham* (tender mercies)

*Dodi* (beloved as spousal love)

*Ra’ah* (brotherly love, / friendship).

### Aramaic

*Chav* – One Way, unrequited

*Racham* - Completed

- The questions:

- Do you *agape* me / Do you *agape* me / am I your (only a) friend
- The responses - *Phileó*
  - Yes, Lord! We are friends
  - Yes Lord, I am your friend
  - Lord you know everything
    - Peter was grieved
    - Peter got the point
      - I see where we are. I see the three questions
      - I understand Lord I am grieved
- You know that I am your friend

This interpretation is one of the most popular linguistic and exegetical fallacies in modern times is that the Greek word for love, *agapao*, carries in it the implication of a divine love that is unconditional and comes to us in spite of our sin.

That is not true.

- Context must determine if *agapao* refers to our proud, cliquish love for our cronies (as in **Matthew 5:46**),
- if it refers to God's merciful and sacrificial love for sinners (as in **John 3:16**),
- if it refers to our love for leaders, not unconditionally but precisely because of their labor (**1 Thessalonians 5:13**).

#### *Agape versus Phileo*

- Written in Greek or Aramaic?
- Written in Greek, spoken in Aramaic?
- Difference between OT Hebrew and NT spoken Aramaic (Hebrew)
  - OT Hebrew – Written and only spoken by Rabbis in synagogue
  - NT Hebrew (Aramaic) spoken in first century
- Love in Greek
  - *Phileo* (brotherly Love)
    - the type of intimate love in the Bible that most Christians practice toward each other. This Greek term describes the powerful emotional bond seen in deep friendships.
    - *Philia* is the most general type of love in Scripture, encompassing love for fellow humans, care, respect, and compassion for people in need.

- The concept of brotherly love that unites believers is unique to Christianity.
- Jesus said *philia* would be an identifier of his followers: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35, NIV)
- *Eros* (Passionate Love)
  - Sensual and romantic love – not used in the Bible
- *Ludus* – (Playful Love) early stages of a relationship – puppy love
- *Philautia* – (Self-love) having pride in your work, taking care of yourself
- *Mania* – (Obsessive love) – stalking behavior and madness, co-dependency, jealousy
- *Pragma* – (Committed love) – Healthy long-term relationship – still linked to marriage relationships
  - Ludus – to eros – eros - Pragma
- *Storge* (Family Love)
  - As with eros, the exact Greek term storge does not appear in the Bible. However, the opposite form is used twice in the New Testament.
  - *Astorgos* (A stor' gos) means "without love, devoid of affection, without affection to kindred, hard-hearted, unfeeling," and is found in the book of Romans and 2 Timothy.
  - It is a deep familial love. This Greek word describes family love, the affectionate bond that develops naturally between parents and children, and brothers and sisters.
- *Agape* – (selfless Love)
  - Ancient Greek - The highest FORM
    - Greeks had perfect forms in their thinking
      - The perfect horse – had a form of perfection on the highest plane that all horses would be contrasted with.
      - A divine aspect to it... But that it was the image of the highest form
    - "To have a warm regard for and interest in another; to have high esteem for or satisfaction with something, *cherish, have affection for, love, take pleasure in.*"
  - NT Greek – the usage began in the 40s with the *Agape* Feast
    - 115 times in the NT
    - It began as the word used for the gathering of the people around a meal that would end in the Eucharist- the Communion
      - Paul had to caution people about eating before others and not to be drunk – through dinner.

- The entire night was to signify the agape love shown by God in giving His Son.
- Agape always calls for decision and for action.
  - Not swept by emotions but is chosen from the will to offer.
  - It must be shown in activity and sacrifice.... Selfless giving, willing devotion.
  - F B Meyer has the following description of agape love...
  - "Wherever there is true love, there must be giving, and giving to the point of sacrifice. Love is not satisfied with giving trinkets; it must give at the cost of sacrifice: it must give blood, life, all. And it was so with the love of God. "He so loved the world, that He gave his only-begotten Son." "Christ also loved and gave Himself up, an offering and a sacrifice to God."

Hebrew - four words for love, but they are not always translated as love.

- *Ahav* (love)
- *Racham* (tender mercies)
- *Dodi* (beloved as spousal love)
- *Ra'ah* (brotherly love, or friendship).

Aramaic –

- *Chav* (*Ahav*) - love
- *Racham* (*Racham*) - - tender mercies (compassion / completed)
  - Compassion is a strong emotion that should draw you to action: to heal, surround, help, nurture, protect and preserve something that has a heartbeat!
  - How interesting is it, that the Hebrew root for *compassion* (רחם) shares the same root as the word for *womb* (רחם)!
    - Life and compassion are symbiotic. You can't truly experience one without the other. If we're going to walk tall in the land of the living, we ought to be ready to show compassion and the true meaning of life to all who walk on this gentle earth.
    - Let us reflect the compassion that God has so generously shared with us.
  - since Kemetic culture is the progenitor of the Hebraic Christian mythos, *RaKHeM* also means "Christ-child."
    - In the following Aramaic passage from the Peshitta, *RaKHeM* is the word used for love, a verb meaning mercy, compassion, or love, depending on usage.

- In a dialogue between Simon Peter (Shimon) and Jesus (Yeshua), *RaKHeM* is translated "love."
      - Thus, between the Kemetite and the Christian Aramaic, *RaKHem*, "Christ-child," is fittingly synonymous with love, mercy, and compassion.
- The key difference between the words *Chav* which is used in John 3:16 as God loving the world and *Racham* is that **Chav is a love that is not necessarily returned.**
- *Chav* is speaking of a love that flows from just one person and is not completed. For love to be completed, it must be returned.
- *Racham* is a completed love. Love can be pretty lonely and painful if it is not returned.
  - As a pastor I performed many weddings. I have always been delighted to watch *Chav* turn into *Racham* as I spoke those words: **"I now pronounce you husband and wife."**
- Peter responded each time with *d'rachem*
  - D' – preposition Of, from that, which
  - **You know of the love I have.**
  - **You know what love I have.**
- Jesus used this word all three times in the Aramaic.
  - Do you have the completed, connected compassionate love for me?

Whether John heard Jesus speak Aramaic and asked if Peter's love was given without reserve, unconditional. Or was he was speaking Greek and asking him if he had the highest a purest form of love for Him, The answer Peter was able to give never reached the level Jesus desired.

John the Author heard and picked up on the **intent** of Jesus in clearly using different words.

- *Agapaó – Chav*
  - Unconditional. no matter if it is returned, all in, without reservation.
- *Phileó – Ra'ah* or even *Racham*
  - "I love," (of friendship): regard with affection/ We have a mutual friendship. I am with you.
    - But this is what Peter was offering even before his denial. He swore that they were united and connected and that he would never depart.
    - Some have said that *agape'* love can only be given by God because it is a divine thing, and that Peter could not have done it even if he tried.

- They say it could not have been possible prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- But this can't be the case, for Jesus would not ask him something he was unable to give.

### **Jesus third question shifted – Are we only friends?**

#### **Peter responds – “Lord, you know me! You are my best friend!”**

- Peter had initially claimed *Agape* love that he would live and die for him beyond all the efforts of the others
- Yet he fell short of that ... now he is backing off and humbly offering what he has

**Formerly Peter had proclaimed *agape*, but it will be short-lived.**

**Now he professes brotherly love and knows that will be long-lived. Wordsworth**

### **Commission to Position**

- The purpose of this entire dialogue is to get Peter back in the role he was called to.
  - You have a task to do.
  - You have a calling to fulfill.
- Be a Shepherd
- Feed my lambs!
  - Lambs are less than a year old
  - There will be new believers that will need to be taught and fed the truth of Christ.
- Tend my sheep! (shepherd) “sheepings” –(Aramaic)
  - Minister to the followers of Christ.
  - Sheep are more mature and may need more instruction and care as they journey in Christ.
- Feed my sheep!
  - Keep teaching them all.
  - They will always need to be fed Christ's words.
- The Aramaic says, Shepherd my lambs, my sheep, my ewes



- Jesus had said to Peter, “when you return – strengthen your brothers.”

## Confirmation of Declaration

### John 21:18-19

*<sup>18</sup> 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.” <sup>19</sup> (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.”*

- When you were young...
  - You did it your way.
  - You did what you wanted.
  - There is this before you:
    - The you who can do whatever you want and go wherever you want to go.
    - But now is a new calling...
      - You follow Christ.
      - You follow His will, His desire.
      - No matter where it leads.
- When you are old...
  - You will face the death that you proclaimed.
  - Peter would indeed die for Jesus, just as he had declared.
- Follow Me!
  - Again, the bookend – the first words and now the second call to them.
  - Come and follow me.

### Illustration: We Have Been Saved from Our Sinful Past

Two brothers were convicted of stealing sheep. For their crime they were each branded on the forehead with the letters "ST," for "sheep thief."

One brother immediately ran away from the area and attempted to build a new life in another country. Even there, people asked him about the "ST" burned into his forehead. He continued his wanderings and finally, unable to bear the burden, he committed suicide.

The other brother took a different approach. He said to himself, **"I can't run away from the fact that I stole sheep. But that's the past. I can stay here and win back my self-respect and the respect of my neighbors."** The years passed and he built a reputation for integrity.

One day a stranger saw the brother, now an old man, with the letters "ST" branded on his forehead. He asked a resident of the town what the letters stood for. The townsman replied, "It happened a long time ago. I've forgotten the particulars, but I think the letters are an abbreviation for Saint." (Christian Cheong. Sermon Central.)

Jesus can, and will, restore you.

He will lift you up and out of a frozen life of regret.

He will once again make the broken beautiful.

**What sin or shame has frozen you in time?**

**Jesus calls you to return His love, to make complete the love, and do the work you are called to do.**