

**“It’s Time to Reset”  
John 21:15-25**

It’s Time to RESET. Can somebody say, “It’s Time!” Turn to your neighbor, tell them: “It’s TIME.” Say it like you mean it... IT’S TIME!

It’s Time for a RESET. It’s TIME for A FRESH START!

DOES ANYONE NEED A FRESH START this morning?

I have good news for you.

- God is the God of the fresh start.
- God is the God of the second chance.
- God is the God of a new day...
- ...the God of new seasons.

God is GOD and he wants to meet us right where we are this morning.

**John 21:15-25 (text displayed)**

**TP: Pursue a spiritual reset and find the freedom of following Jesus.**

As we move through this Scripture, we are going to discover, God wants a RESET of Relationship, a Reset of LOVE, a Reset of Mission, and a RESET of FOCUS!

**1. Reset your relationship. Confess your sin. (21:15-17)**

STORY

- After sharing breakfast with all seven disciples, Jesus addressed Peter personally.
  - Jesus, looking straight into Peter’s eyes, essentially asks the same question, three times...
1. “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”
    - Jesus could be asking if Peter loves him more than he loves the other disciples.
    - He could be asking Peter if he loves him more than his fishing profession.
    - OR... he could be asking Peter if he loves Jesus more than the other disciples love him.
  - It is likely option #3. Peter, do you love me more than they love me. And I know that startles our senses a bit. We are commanded to LOVE God with everything we are, but never commanded to be in competition, so how could Jesus be saying: Peter do you love me more than John loves me? What about James? How about Thomas? Nathanael too?
  - Peter responds with humble assertiveness, not directly answering Jesus’ question: “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”
  - Then Jesus asks him again in verse 16...

#2. "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

- Peter may have been puzzled by Jesus' asking a second time.
- He may have been thinking: "Jesus, did you *not* just see that move I made in the boat? When John said "It is the Lord," I *threw myself* into the sea, and swam 300 feet as fast as I could to see you, because of I love you.
- Again, Peter answers: "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."
- But then...

#3. A THIRD TIME: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

- We can almost feel Peter's exasperation. Verse 17 says he was grieved him to be asked a third time. "Lord, YOU! JESUS, YOU! the maker of every mind, YOU KNOW EVERYTHING."
- Listen... Jesus was asking Peter the same question, not to frustrate him but to forgive him.

Peter needed a RESET in his RELATIONSHIP with Jesus. Why?

- The night before Jesus was crucified, what did Peter say:
  - John 13:37 - "I will lay down my life for you."
  - Matthew 26:33 - "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away."
- And what did Jesus say after Peter's statements?
  - Peter, before the rooster crows (in other words, before the rising of the sun), you will deny me three times.
  - And though Peter confessed to have a greater love than everyone else, Peter denied Jesus three times.

Do you see the genius of Jesus? He allows the man who denied him three times to declare his allegiance three times, so that Peter would feel the full weight of forgiveness and restoration.

In this Jesus shows us what real forgiveness looks like.

**Real forgiveness recognizes the wrong.**

- Jesus does not walk up to Peter and say: "Hey, we're good. Don't worry about what happened back there."
- BUT he goes on to...

**Real forgiveness fully restores the relationship.**

- I'm sure Peter wondered if his relationship with Jesus would ever be the same after he denied him.
- Forgiveness says: "That wrong will not stand between us any longer."

T: Anybody need a second chance today?

CONFESS YOUR SIN

Listen, Jesus wants to forgive you for the ways you've dishonored him. He wants to forgive you for the sin you have committed against him. Sin creates friction and separation. Sin leaves a stain on our soul.

But Jesus offers forgiveness..

Like the chocolate stains on my son's face after he eats a chocolate bar, God wants to clean us up.

**“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:9-10)**

What sin do you need to confess?

Any sin... Any sin! Anything that stands between you and Jesus, it's got to go. He wants to cleanse you. He wants a relationship without friction.

[We've been saying... A spiritual reset begins with recognizing where we are... We need a revival of HONESTY and VULNERABILITY, not first with one another, but first with God.]

T: Jesus wants you to experience the freedom of forgiveness.

## **2. Reset your love. Tell him again. (21:15-19)**

### STORY

- Jesus gives Peter the opportunity to verbalize his love three times. I believe Jesus wanted to provide a moment where he could extend forgiveness and restoration *AND* Peter could be strengthened in his soul.
- And let's keep it real... in our culture, not that this is the way it should be, sometimes it's still *harder* for men to verbalize their love, especially to anyone not a woman (e.g., other men and God). Story of Bobby?! :)
- But David, perhaps the greatest warrior in the Bible, the dude that decapitated the head of the giant Goliath, after he taunted and defamed the name of God, is the same David in Psalm 18:1 who says, "I love you, O Lord, my strength."
- Confessing sin decreases friction. Reaffirming love increases intimacy.

### TELL HIM AGAIN

How much do you love Jesus? Can you hear him asking? "Do you love me?"

Do you love God more than anything? How often do you tell him?

**“Jesus, I love you more than \_\_\_\_\_.”**

Jesus, I love you more than work.

I love you more than the next degree.

I love you more than Ted Lasso, season 3.

Jesus, I love you more than my spouse.

Love you more than my kids and more than kids' sports leagues.

Love you more than my best friend.

Is that true? how would we know?

Jesus, I love you more than pornography.

More than slander and lies.

More than ungodly anger.

Jesus, I love you more than the next pleasure, if the pleasure is not of you (the next drink, the next hit, the next video game).

Jesus, I love you more than MY PHONE. (God, is speaking to somebody right now)

Jesus, I love you more than my paycheck.

More than sex.

More than the next shiny toy.

More than weekend trips.

Jesus, I love you more than the Red Sox making the playoffs, and the Pats beating Brady next Sunday.

Jesus, I love you more than politics and political parties?

I love you more than masks and vaccines (Yes, I went there).

Jesus, I love you more than my greatest hopes and dreams.

He's asking: Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me, Peter? Do you love me more, Redemption Hill?

Jesus, we love you more than comfort,

More than security.

More than success.

More than health.

Jesus, we love you more than (are you ready for this?) simply looking like we love you!

That means we love you more than just showing up on Sunday.

More than simply reading our Bibles

More than the next prayer meeting or small group.

More than serving others in need.

Jesus, it's all because of you that we love those things.

Jesus, we love you more than anything life can give or death can take away.

Jesus, we love you more life itself (see Psalm 63:3).

Jesus, we love you MORE!

And then we discover another reason Jesus is having this conversation with Peter. You love me more than life itself, Peter? That's good, because ultimately you're going to give your life for me.

### Verse 18-19a.

The phrase "Stretch out your hands," meant only one thing in the Roman empire - death by crucifixion.

The end of verse 19 then says, "And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me." He spoke the same words he spoke when he first invited him to be his disciple: FOLLOW ME."

Jesus said, "If wants to follow me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."

But before we move on, we must remember: our love flows from his love. "We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

This conversation follows Jesus' own crucifixion. Do you love me Peter? Remember how much I have loved you! Remember the cross. Remember the nails through my hands and feet.

If your love for God is not increasing, it's probably because you're failing to realize just how much he loves YOU!

T: "God, we repent for not believing that you are in love with us completely!!" Reset your love. Tell him again. Jesus, we love you! That puts us in the best position to, then #3...

### **3. Reset your mission. Serve others for their spiritual good. (21:15-17)**

In fact, you could argue, we can't really reset our mission until we've reset our love. Why? Love for others, if it be pure, if it be true, flows from our love for God. You show me someone who struggles to love people, and I'll probably show you someone who is struggling to love their God.

**If the shoe fits, don't wear it! Throw it away! Cry out to God and say, "God, change me!"**

Why? Because God made us to love him and love others. He made us to serve him and serve others for their spiritual good!

### STORY

Each time after Peter affirms his love, Jesus gives him an assignment.

- Verse 15. "Feed my lambs."
- Verse 16. "Tend my sheep."
- Verse 17. "Feed my sheep."

Again, Jesus is doing more than cleaning up the past. He's preparing him for the future!

One scholar points out that it would be appropriate to insert the word “Then” before each command.

- Do you love me? Yes, I love you. “Then, feed my lambs.”
- Do you love me? Yes! “Then, tend my sheep. Then, feed my sheep.”

What does this mean? Care for my people, for everyone who follows me (present & future).

What does this mean? Teach my people, give them, spiritual food (both everyone who follows me and everyone who will follow me!)

We do this through giving people God’s love and God’s word. Jesus said it: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

Notice... these are verbs, not nouns. That means they require action, not passivity.

### SERVE OTHERS

There is no doubt this had a special application for Peter as the primary leader of the early church. There is no doubt this has a special application for pastors and leaders in churches, but there is also *no doubt* Jesus speaks this to everyone one of his disciples.

Tanner, prove it. Because I don’t feel like this is for me... Yes, you can. When Jesus sent out his disciples, he sent them to tell others about the kingdom of God. How many did he send? In Luke 9, how many did he send (12 out of 12 - 100%). What about Luke 10? That’s right 72 out of 72 - that also is 100%.

This is for you!

But Tanner, I don’t feel like I can do this. Yes, you can... Two reasons.

1) If you follow Jesus, God is in you, and God in you can do anything through you! (God, help somebody believe that *right now!*)

2) “Freely you have received; freely give” (Matthew 10:8) This is why 1,000,000 with God is so important... Whatever I am getting... whatever I am taking away from my focused, face-to-face time with God is the food that I can feed others, whether they know Jesus or not.

We give what we receive.

Out of love for Jesus and love for the person in front of us (at work, in Community Group, checking out at Market Basket, wherever, whoever), we give what we receive! We serve for their spiritual good.

T: Thank you Jesus, for a reset of mission. But we see one more opportunity for reset..

### **4. Reset your focus. No comparisons, no distractions. (21:20-25)**

#### STORY

Look back at verses 20-22. Remember, Jesus just told Peter he would one day be crucified.

- As John follows Jesus and Peter, Peter is naturally curious: “Jesus, you just died by crucifixion. Now, you’re telling me that I will die by crucifixion. What about him?”
- And Jesus responds immediately: “What is that to you?” (whoa.)
- In other words: “Peter - you don’t worry about him; you worry about you. You stay focused on what I have for you. Run in your lane. Stay focused with great zeal and passion on what I have assigned you. That’s where freedom is found.”
- Once again, look at the final words of verse 22: “You follow me!”
  - The Greek construction of the text tells us that the pronoun YOU is emphatic. That’s why some translations, like the ESV, put an exclamation point on the command.
  - Additionally, the tense is in the active voice. “Follow me, and keep on following me!”

## FOCUS

Peter, in this moment, was pulled away by one of the great temptations of the human heart: Distraction by Comparison.

Listen, Jesus made YOU, and he has a plan for YOU, and his plan for YOU will necessarily look different than his plan for THEM.

And God, bring us to the place of contentment so we won’t be distracted by comparison.

- Their life is so easy.
- Their kids are so well behaved.
- They make so much money.
- They got married at 27.
- They’re so spiritual.
- They pray like the apostles.
- Their church is so effective at reaching people.
- They are so athletic.
- They are so artistic.
- They are so academic.

What is that to YOU?! YOU be who I’ve made YOU to be. YOU do what I’ve called YOU to do.

Do you see how serious Jesus is about this?

- He uses the most extreme example to make his point. Peter, what if I want him to live thousands of years until I return? What is that to you? YOU FOLLOW ME!
- If I want them to make billions, have 100 children, never get sick, or lead 1,000,000 people to salvation...

What is that to you?!

You follow me!

No comparisons. No distractions. Complete freedom.

*Conclusion:*

**TP: Pursue a spiritual reset and find the freedom of following Jesus.**

And when you do... here's the really, really wild reality. There will be NO END to measure of his GOODNESS; there will be NO END to the measure of his POWER. There will be NO END to the measure of his LOVE.

Look at verses 24-25.

What does this tell us? Wherever you are in your journey with Jesus, you have only seen the most microscopic FRACTION of who he is and what he can do.

Job 26:14 - "These are just the beginning of all that he does, merely a whisper of his power."

**"It's Time to Reset"**

**John 21:15-25**

A Reset of Relationship.

A Reset of Love.

A Reset of Mission.

A Reset of Focus.

A RESET in the UNBELIEVEABLE ADVENTURE of FOLLOWING JESUS.