

Set in Stone - From Shame to Shepherd

Scripture: John 21:1-20

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to move us from an identity of shame to an identity of a shepherd.

Text: John 21:1-19

3 OBSERVATIONS

- Fishing Again
- Charcoal Fire
- Jesus already had fish on the fire.

Mark 14:26-29 (ESV) - ²⁶And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ²⁹Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not."

1. Grief Becomes the Gateway to Grace

John 21:17 - "Peter was grieved..."

Psalm 34:18 (ESV) - "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."

Jesus walks through our grief with us—not to crush us, but to redeem us. Grace flows through our wounds when we bring them to Him.

2. Failure Doesn't Forfeit His Faithfulness

John 21:15-17 - Jesus doesn't ignore Peter's denial, but He also doesn't define him by it.

2 Timothy 2:13 (ESV) - "If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself."

Luke 22:31-32 (ESV) - ³¹"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³²but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Jesus is not looking for perfection—He's looking for devotion. He meets Peter in his shame to restore him with His faithfulness.

3. Confession Leads to Calling Once Again

John 21:18-19 (ESV) - ¹⁸ 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.” ¹⁹ (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.”

Peter confesses his love, and Jesus reaffirms his calling. Follow me and feed my sheep.

1 John 1:9 (ESV) - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Confession doesn't put you on the bench—it puts you back in the game. Jesus restores us not just to heal us—but to entrust us to get back in the game of making disciples who make disciples.

A Different Peter... No longer weighed down by shame and regret, but fully embracing his call to be a shepherd of God's people.

Years later, Peter is writing to the scattered sheep of Jesus.

1 Peter 5:6-11 (ESV) - ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 2:13-14 (ESV) - ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us **all** our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.



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