

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD  
THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD-PT 3b  
HE RESTORETH MY SOUL  
PSALM 23:3**

**Introduction**

Last week we began looking at the first part of *Psalm 23:3*—  
*“He restoreth my soul.”*

The emphasis here is on the **SHEPHERD**. For it is only **THROUGH HIM** that we, as **HIS SHEEP** can be **RESTORED** when we have become **CAST** or **CAST DOWN** or have **GONE ASTRAY!**

When we have **FALLEN** and can’t get back up, we have a **SHEPHERD** who is ready, willing, and able to **RESTORE** us! What a great **COMFORT** that should be to us!

We were looking at that **RESTORATION** by our **SHEPHERD** and said that we were going to look at a great example from **SCRIPTURE** showing this!

Our **SHEPHERD**, the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, is constantly working to **RESTORE** us.

So, let’s consider an example in **SCRIPTURE** at how our **GOOD SHEPHERD**, the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, **RESTORED** one of **HIS SHEEP** who was in a **CAST** position— **THE APOSTLE PETER!**

**I. PETER WAS LOVED BY THE LORD! (Luke 5:1-11)**

It is a fact that **CHRIST LOVES HIS SHEEP** with an **EVERLASTING LOVE!** And, what a wonderful **TRUTH** that is!

*Jeremiah 31:3—“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: Therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”*

(Primarily speaking of the house of Israel, but also applicable to us! )

When **JESUS** found **PETER**, **PETER** was just one **FISHERMAN** among several, who heard **CHRIST** speak to him and obeyed the voice of the **LORD!**

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We need to understand that it was **CHRIST’S LOVE** for **PETER** that drew him to the **LORD!**

*1 John 4:19— “We love him, because he first loved us.”*

Aren’t you glad for that same **LOVE** the **SAVIOUR LOVED** each of us with?

*Titus 3:3–6—“3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;”*

*2 Thessalonians 2:16— “Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,”*

**PETER** had times when he **DISAPPOINTED CHRIST** and even **GRIEVED CHRIST** with **his speech** and with **his actions**, but the **LORD never stopped loving HIM!**

What a great **TRUTH** it is that even when we **STRAY**, **DISAPPOINT** and even **GRIEVE THE LORD**, **HE never stops LOVING** us!

We may **DOUBT HIS LOVE**, but **HE LOVES US** still the same! May we never forget that!

*PETER WAS LOVED BY THE LORD...*

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**II. PETER WAS PRAYED FOR BY THE LORD! (Luke 22:31-34)**  
Not only does our **SHEPHERD LOVE** us, but he **PRAYS** for us by **INTERCEDING** to the **FATHER** on our behalf!

Most of our **FAILURES** in our personal lives are **PRAYER FAILURES**. But, **JESUS** never **FAILS!**

The **LORD JESUS CHRIST** is constantly **PRAYING** for us!

*Hebrews 7:25*—“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing **he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**”

*Hebrews 9:24*— “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now **to appear in the presence of God for us:**

*In John 17 we find JESUS’ INTERCESSORY PRAYER* to the **FATHER** for **HIS DISCIPLES** in the presence of **HIS DISCIPLES!**

Do you think that **PRAYER** would have been memorable to **PETER** and the other **APOSTLES** as it was to **JOHN**?

Just as **JESUS PRAYED** for them, **HE PRAYS FOR US!**

**III. PETER’S SIN WAS SEEN BY THE LORD! (Luke 22:54-62)**  
**PETER** spoke with an oath **DENYING** that he knew **CHRIST**.

The **LORD** knew beforehand that **PETER** would **DENY HIM**. Nevertheless, the **LORD** looked on **PETER** after his **SIN** was accomplished.

A vital part of the **SHEPHERD’S RESTORATION** of the **SHEEP** takes place when the **SHEEP** realizes the **SHEPHERD** has seen his **SIN**.

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The moment we **LOOK** to the **SAVIOUR**, we realize that **HE’S** seen how we have strayed!

*Hebrews 4:13*—“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: **but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**”

**IV. PETER’S SIN BROUGHT GRIEF IN HIS OWN LIFE AS WELL AS TO THE LORD!**

Just because the **LORD** knows what our **SIN** is, even before we ever commit it, does not mean that it doesn’t bring **GRIEF** to **HIM!**

As **GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT** reveals our **SIN** to us, **HE** shows us the reality that our **SIN** has **GRIEVED OUR SHEPHERD!**

**V. PETER WAS MENTIONED BY NAME BY THE ANGEL AT THE LORD’S TOMB TO MEET THE RESURRECTED LORD IN GALILEE! (Mark 16:1-7)**

The **LORD** knows each of **HIS SHEEP** by name, and **HE** singles us out, calling for us to be **RESTORED** to **HIM!**

**HE** knows all about us down to the smallest detail— even the hairs of our heads numbered!

**VI. The LORD PERSONALLY CONFRONTED PETER TO RESTORE HIM! (John 21:15-17)**  
**CHRIST** questioned **PETER** three times about his **LOVE** for **HIM!**

Understand that **CHRIST** knew **PETER’S HEART** for **HIM** and even **PETER’S** grief over **HIS SIN**, but **PETER** needed to personally know the **LORD’S FORGIVENESS** in order for him to be **RESTORED!**

The **LORD RESTORED HIM** to service here!

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The real heart of the matter if we want to be **RESTORED** is this—**DO WE LOVE CHRIST MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!**

**Conclusion**

Consider how far **PETER** could have gone away from **GOD** if the **SHEPHERD** had not gone after him.

Just as **CHRIST** went after **PETER** when he **SINNED**, so also **HE** comes after us when we **SIN!**

**CHRIST** wants to **RESTORE** us to **HIMSELF!** So, when the **LORD** confronts us with our **SIN**, let's be quick to **CONFESS** our **SIN**, **FORSAKE** our **SIN** and be **RESTORED** to a place of usefulness for the **LORD!**

Next week, **LORD** willing we will look at the second part of **verse 3:**  
*"...he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."*