

Reconstructing Peter

Deconstructing of beliefs may result in Christianity no longer useful, good, or applicable to one's context
But sometimes we are just shaken like Peter, He had denied Jesus - how did Jesus Reconstruct him?

RECONSTRUCTING → In Peter's turning away, He dragged 6 friends, but Jesus is pursuing

Joh 21:1-25 ESV After this **Jesus revealed himself again (v14 3rd time)** to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. [slide] **3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you."** They went out and got into the boat, but that night **they caught nothing.**

- **Peter turned back to the familiar** → when Jesus called them → it was to be fishers of men
- **He influenced others (6 other guys were here)** → where does your influence lead people?

RECONSTRUCTING PETER → He reminds Peter that **HE is in control - HE CAN BE TRUSTED**

4 Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "**Children, do you have any fish?**" They answered him, "No." 6 He said to them, "**Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.**" So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.

- He stood on the shore...**he knows** where we are, what we are doing, and how its going, where fish are
- **Fishing is not evil** → Jesus was not at the center of Peter's heart - seek first my kingdom
- **He teaches Peter once again that obedience** to him will ALWAYS best

RECONSTRUCTING PETER → removed barriers to fellowship (even after Peter's failure) **HE WANTS US**

7 That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. 8 The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. 9 When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.

SLIDE 10 Jesus said to them, "**Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.**" 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 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. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. 14 **This was now the third time** that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

- **He had fish cooking and bread** → **But where was his fishing pole or his net?**
- **He is not about embarrassing us** → **tho it was probably tongue in cheek, he invited them to bring some of the fish THEY HAVE JUST CAUGHT**
- **Come and have breakfast - an invitation to meet up again (after Peter denied Him)**

RECONSTRUCTING PETER → he led him to the greatest commandment

15 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.**" 16 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." 17 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.

- **When we love him, we are focused on what He wants (feed MY sheep)**

RECONSTRUCTING PETER → He gave Peter the simplest instruction “say Yes to Jesus”

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.**" 20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" 21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? **You follow me!**"

- **Jesus is in it for the long haul...his approach is not for the short term**

Summary How did Jesus Reconstruct Peter?

- Jesus pursued Peter
- Jesus showed Peter that HE is in control AND CAN BE TRUSTED
- Jesus removed the barriers for fellowship HE WANTS TO KNOW US

THE SIMPLICITY OF FOLLOWING JESUS IS FOUND THESE 6 WORDS

- Jesus went to the heart → **Do you love me?**
- Jesus gave him a simple plan → **Follow Me**