

When you're reconciled to the reality of your own weakness, then you can deal with the weakness in others.

✓ **How does Jesus drive home that principal?**

I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

John 21:18,19

Jesus is saying in effect, "Peter, you're going to be so good at this "Follow me", ultimately, you're going to actually have to literally die for my sheep the way I did.

But like everything else with Peter, everything is hard, everything. "The Lord says, "Follow Me!" Next statement,

²⁰ Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them.

(This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?")

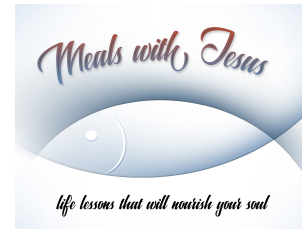
²¹ When Peter saw him, he asked,

"Lord, what about him?" ²² Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." John 21:20-22

Jesus is saying, "*Peter, for the last time stop comparing yourself to everybody else? I have a plan for him, and you don't know it, and you're never going to know it, Follow me.*"

Did he? On the Day of Pentecost, Peter was given the fullness of the Spirit, and he was dynamite right down to the day of being crucified.

Dan Wilvers- July 2nd 2017 Part 3



How Overcoming Personal Denial Makes Us Powerful

Gospel of John

Chapter 21:4-22

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. ⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved (John), said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.

⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." ¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. (See Back for Vs. 18-22)

✓ **All people suffer from some form of denial.**

By denial I mean an inability, rather than a refusal to see and acknowledge a character flaw.

At the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Matthew 26:56b says: Then all the disciples deserted him (Jesus) and fled.

But Peter's betrayal of Jesus was particularly grievous for several reasons.

1. Peter was in the inner circle of three.

Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. Matthew 17:1

2. Peter was the only one who absolutely insisted that if Jesus were taken he wouldn't fall away.

"Even if all of the rest fall away on account of you, I never will. I am ready to go with you to prison or even to death." Matthew 26:33

3. Peter very publically denied knowing Jesus.

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. ...Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."⁷² He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

⁷³After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."⁷⁴ Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Matthew 26:69-74

✓ **How do you live with yourself after that? Look at what Jesus does.**

When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it.

John 21:9

Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. Mark 14:54

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" John 21:15
(See Matthew 26:33 & Matthew 26:70 previous page) *Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."*

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" John 21:16
(See Matthew 26:72 previous page) *Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."*

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" John 21:17
(See Matthew 26:74 previous page) *Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."*

✓ **Do you know what he's saying?**

Jesus says, "You failed me," Peter says, "I know,"
Jesus says, "*Okay, now take charge. You're a leader. Take over.*"

Principal: The more you can see your true self, the more you will rely on God's grace and the more suited you will be to serve God's people.

Why? Because in life you learn to realize when you walk with the LORD you're the biggest failure, and that's when God can use you

Apostle Paul: This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all.

1 Timothy 1:15

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