

## **Rebuilding Trust – John 21, Lev 6. 2-6, Heb 12. 4-12,**

### **Intro**

The world can be a very, very harsh place to live  
Do you agree?

I mean we're here in Bath, yet there are huge parts of this globe who live in abject poverty, in fear, in war torn areas, where violence, rape, abuse are their constant neighbours.....where there are obviously lots of reasons to mistrust.....inspite of COVID

Yet even in beautiful Bath, that many would think brings the ideal life, there seem so many reasons to mistrust.....reasons to be anxious, reasons to be fearful. Why?  
Because human beings fail, the world is not perfect - we experience from a very early age the shortcomings of our families our communities and our schools and we face up to our own inadequacies and failings and it leaves a mark – often indelibly

*YET - All of us are Longing for love and trust and its exhausting living with mistrust and baggage*

### **Prayer**

Loving God, all of us need redemption. All of us are in need of restoration. Father soften our hearts at this time of hardness, would you get to work in us beneath the surface, transform us by the power of your Holy Spirit

### **Intro to John 21**

John 21 is One of the great passages in the NT, full of full of hope, full of healing.....full of rebuilding

**Remember,** Jesus disciples had failed him, had Abandoned him, betrayed Jesus' trust at his greatest time of need,.....will they remain untrustworthy and untrusted by God? Peter especially had been full of big talk. In his own head and heart, Peter was a man of integrity and of courage. But, at a moment of crisis, as the cock crowed Peter was revealed as a coward, as someone who saves his own skin, as someone with no integrity at all – untrustworthy. Peter is a man doomed to lead a completely haunted, ruined life - untrustworthy.

But Jesus, in this extraordinary passage, goes about healing and restoring Peter With Jesus, defeat, disappointment and failure are not the last word..... healing and rebuilding trust are.....it's love

Throughout this passage you see clearly how God is taking the initiative in **calling** Peter back. Jesus wants Peter to be restored. He speaks to him, advises him, prepares breakfast for him and calls Peter to follow him. So if you think God may have given up on you, that you've done too many bad things and it's all too late - take heart Jesus is still calling you.....Longing to draw you back (90)

*I wonder whether you have ever done something, or experienced something that even NOW, years later causes you shame? And the memory of that still causes you to*

*blush. You've betrayed friends, destroyed colleagues, have secrets that consume you? You've deliberately and systematically undermined others, failed to stand up to bullies?? So how are we rebuilt?*

On the one hand These verses are incredibly tender and compassionate, but they also have the brutality of a surgeon's knife, Jesus is getting all the disease out..... **trust can be rebuilt. How?**

### **1. You have to open**

Jesus makes a fire on a beach and, of course, Peter responds to Jesus' CALL as he launches himself towards Jesus. You won't find healing and restoration unless you take responsibility, recognize your need, are open and take the plunge.....and face the reality of your failure. Healing starts where blame-shifting ends, restoring freedom starts when repentance starts. Just like surgery..... it starts with opening up and bringing the disease into the light.....

### **2. You have to find the trouble spot**

The surgeon goes down to the root of the problem. And Jesus' three questions, "Do you love me?" get to the heart of the disease and Peter's betrayal. "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." Jesus is brutally exposing Peter's betrayal, 3 times you denied me, 3 times you chose others over me

Today you'll not get out from under the power of your sins, of your bad habits, or your flaws unless you see them as rooted and related to your desire to play God and to push God out of your life.....

### **3. You have to get the tumour out**

The best place is right at the feet of Jesus in conversation. *Peter ties his outer garment to himself, and he runs, he swims, he wades, he fights the water. He runs like a crazy man to get as close to Jesus Christ as he possibly can and finds love, acceptance, and forgiveness*

What is the gospel? The gospel is that the determining factor in my relationship with the Father is not my past but Christ's past, not my record but Christ's record he rises and he runs. Why? Because he's finally understood that "Though I am a sinner/failure, I am safe with Jesus, because he truly loves me". The message of the gospel, through Jesus' life death and resurrection, can do surgery on anybody's sin, guilt and shame and it can wipe anybody's past clean.

No matter what you have done, you can start over.....you can be restored. Jesus wants to heal our shame and rebuild trust. If like Peter and me, you have made great promises to God about how much you are going to read scripture, about how much, how often, how fervently or silently you are going to pray? About how you are going to serve God whole heartedly, about how you are going to control your tongue and speak

words of life and blessing? About how you are going to tell your friends about Jesus  
.....love others If you have said that, sung that.....and failed to do that God wants to  
restore you this morning

## **Conclusion**

To complete the restoration, Jesus recommissions Peter to continue his own work,  
feeding and tending the sheep of the great Shepherd Jesus. "Follow me," said Jesus.  
Peter obediently followed. That's all that Jesus ever asked of any of us. "Will you just  
follow me? Will you give your life to me?" journey with me Today?

*Sir Edwin Landseer was one of the most famous painters of the Victorian era. He was  
best known for his depictions of the natural settings and life in the Scottish highlands.*

*One day as he was visiting a family in an old mansion in Scotland, one of the servants  
spilled a pitcher of soda water, leaving a large stain on the wall. While the family was  
out for the day, Landseer remained behind. Using charcoal, he incorporated the stain  
into a beautiful drawing. When the family returned they found a picture of a waterfall  
surrounded by trees and animals. He used his skill to make something beautiful out of  
what had been an unsightly mess.*

*God works in much the same way in our lives. The things that we think of as  
weaknesses and handicaps can, through His grace, become our greatest strengths—  
and the very things He uses the most to bring glory to Himself.*

Peter is someone we can all identify with. Flawed.....Yet in this encounter, we see that  
every painful memory, every shameful thing can be brought to Jesus. There is no  
reason to despair about the past. We can be forgiven. Restored and healed. Trust can  
be rebuilt if our failures are taken to Jesus, ashes can become beauty.

## **Closing Prayer**

May the Father grant forgiveness to us  
May the Son of God pour out his love upon us  
May the Spirit bring his freedom to us  
This day and always . AMEN