



# KING'S CHAPEL

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## Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 7 - Day 2

### Approaching God

**Read Psalm 104:24-30** - *O LORD, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your creatures. They all depend on you to give them food as they need it. When you supply it, they gather it. You open your hand to feed them, and they are richly satisfied. But if you turn away from them, they panic. When you take away their breath, they die and turn again to dust. When you give them your breath, life is created, and you renew the face of the earth.*

**Prayer:** Psalm 104 celebrates the wisdom and love this Creator has over all that he has made and which he sustains. Every aspect of creation exists in complete dependence upon him. Where do you need to depend on God today? How does God shepherd you? As you reflect for a moment, where do you realize you are totally dependent on him, even when it's easy not to recognize your need at first? Take some time to connect with God throughout the truth and promises of Psalm 104

### Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - John 21:4-19

**Passage Introduction:** *Peter's concise confession - "you are the Messiah, the Christ" - focused the faith of the disciples on Jesus as God among us, in person, carrying out the eternal work of salvation. Peter seems to have been a natural leader, commanding the respect of his peers by sheer force of personality. In every listing of Jesus' disciples, Peter's name is invariably first.*

*In the early church, his influence was enormous and acknowledged by all. By virtue of his position, he was easily the most powerful figure in the Christian community. And his energetic preaching, ardent prayer, bold healing, and wise direction confirmed the trust placed in him.*

*The way Peter handled himself in that position of power is even more impressive than the power itself. He stayed out of the center, didn't "wield" power, maintained a scrupulous subordination to Jesus. Given his charismatic personality and well-deserved position at the head, he could easily have taken over, using the prominence of his association with Jesus to promote himself. That he didn't do it, given the frequency with which spiritual leaders do exactly that, is impressive. In John 21, we see the encounter when Jesus restores Peter to leadership after Peter denies him three times during Jesus' trial. What qualities do you see in Jesus that end up being part of Peter's vision for leadership in 1 Peter?*

**John 21:4-19 - 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. **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. **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.

**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. **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."

## **Daily Study Questions**

**You may find it helpful to read through the commentary in "Resources for Further Study" at the end of today's study to answer these questions.**

### **Questions for Study**

- Why do you think Jesus ask Peter if he loves him more than the other disciples?
- Why do you think Jesus ask Peter three times whether he loves him?
- What does Jesus tell Peter to do and what do you think he means by this? Put this in your own words.

## Questions for Meditation & Application

- Jesus' words to Peter are particularly relevant to church leaders and pastors, who have the responsibility as "under shepherds," of Christ's flock (1 Peter 5:1-4). But every Christian is called to care for others. In what particular areas are you called to "feed" and "take care of" the sheep?
- Is there anything in your past that still plagues your conscience? What do you need to take from this story of Peter's reinstatement.

## Passage Summary:

Peter had felt freedom to move toward Jesus in his brokenness, and we see Jesus welcoming his beloved friend. Jesus provides for our every need, even our food. There are only two times when a charcoal fire is mentioned in the New Testament: here, and earlier in John's Gospel, when Peter, while warming himself, denied Jesus in the presence of Israel's high priest (18:15–27). Now, in the presence of heaven's Great High Priest, Peter experiences the reconciling and restorative power of the gospel.

Jesus didn't hurry the process of Peter's restoration. The Savior asked three times for affirmation of the apostle's love, reflecting Peter's three denials during Christ's passion. Gospel surgery is free, but not always easy. Grace produces redemptive pain, not punitive pain. But pain is still painful. Indeed, the gospel brings an end to all deadening worldly grief. But the gospel is the beginning of enlivening godly grief (2 Cor. 7:10–11). The law condemns, the gospel convicts; the law creates self-centered tears, the gospel creates God-centered tears.

Think about the words of Jesus: "Do you love me more than these?" It would have been easier on Peter had Jesus asked him, "Do you promise not to fail me again?" But Jesus knew better than to ask that question, because, of course, Peter would fail again (e.g., Gal. 2:11–21). Jesus is more jealous for our love than zealous for our works. If he has our hearts, he'll have everything else.

## Close in Prayer:

**Close by talking to God in response to what you have read. Ask him to help you apply His word to your heart by faith. Ask for forgiveness and grace where you need it.**

How can I rejoice today in light of this passage?

What do I need to repent of in light of this passage?

What requests do I need to make today in light of this passage?