

AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

Topic: How God Rebuilds What's Broken

Opening Prayer:

“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” (Psalm 51:12). Father, we come before You with our brokenness, trusting in Your power to restore and renew. Rebuild what we thought was lost and teach us to trust in Your unfailing love. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Read: John 21:15-19

Have you ever felt like your failure was final? Peter knew that feeling all too well. He had walked with Jesus, proclaimed his undying loyalty, and then denied even knowing Him when it mattered most. The weight of that failure must have been crushing, a constant reminder that he had betrayed the One who loved him deeply.

But in John 21, we see the beautiful heart of Jesus as the Restorer. On the shores of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus prepares breakfast for His disciples and then addresses Peter directly. With three questions, “Do you love me?” Jesus meets Peter in the depths of his regret. Jesus’ deliberate questioning mirrors Peter’s three denials, not to shame him, but to reaffirm his place in God’s plan.

Interestingly, the dialogue highlights Peter’s limitations. When Jesus first asks, “Do you love (agape) me?” Peter, burdened by his past, can only reply, “I love (phileo) you,” expressing a lesser, yet honest, form of love. Jesus doesn’t push Peter away for this; instead, He meets Peter where he is and begins to rebuild.

The beauty of this restoration is its purpose. Jesus doesn’t merely forgive Peter; He commissions him: “Feed my sheep.” Restoration in God’s kingdom is never about returning to what was—it’s about stepping into something greater. Peter, the man who once denied Jesus, would go on to lead the early church with boldness, proclaiming the gospel with unshakable faith.

This moment reminds us that God doesn't define us by our failures. Instead, He uses our brokenness as the foundation for His glory. Restoration with God may come with challenges—Peter was warned of future sacrifices—but it always leads to a deeper intimacy with Him and a life that points others to His grace.

Conclusion:

God's restoration is an invitation to a new beginning. He doesn't just fix what's broken—He makes it better, turning failure into faith, regret into purpose, and shame into glory. Just as Jesus rebuilt Peter's life, He desires to rebuild yours, no matter how shattered it feels.

Discussion Questions:

For Students:

1. What is one mistake or failure in your life that you feel holds you back? How can Peter's story encourage you to trust in God's ability to restore?
2. How can you show God's love to someone at school or in your friend group who feels broken or left out?
3. What does it look like for you to "feed His sheep" in your current stage of life?

For Parents:

1. How can Peter's restoration remind us to show grace and encouragement to our children when they make mistakes?
2. What broken areas in your family's life do you need to bring to God for restoration?
3. How can you teach your children to rely on God to rebuild their confidence and purpose after failure?

For Professionals:

1. How can you invite God to rebuild an area of your career or workplace where you've experienced failure or setbacks?
2. What does it mean for you to "feed His sheep" in your professional environment? How can you serve others and glorify God at work?
3. How has God restored you in the past, and how can that testimony encourage a colleague or client who feels broken?

This week, identify a specific area of brokenness where you need restoration.

Spend time in prayer, surrendering that area to God, and ask Him to begin rebuilding. Take one tangible step—like seeking forgiveness, sharing your story with someone who needs encouragement, or committing to serve others as part of your healing journey. Let God show you how He rebuilds for His glory.