

Bible Study on Living A Resurrected Life: Do You Love Me?
The Disciple Who Failed
John 13 & 21

1. *Who in your mind is the disciple who failed?*

We are no different from Peter or the other disciples. We have all failed at some point in the past, and we still fail sometimes. Even though we are a new creation, in this life we are a work in progress and there are moments we fail. Living a resurrected life means knowing we will all fail at times but failure can be a gateway towards growth.

Read John 21.

2. *If you were Jesus, what would be the first thing you'd ask or say to Peter?*

3. *What was the first thing Jesus said to Peter?*

"Breakfast is ready." What tenderness and love in such a mundane-sounding phrase! In those three words, Jesus was saying, "I care about you and your needs." In those three words, Jesus was inviting Peter to the table again, "Let's break bread, let's share a meal together again, my friend. Let's talk."

4. *Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times whether he loved him? Was it about Jesus' need or was it about Peter's?*

Read John 13:31-38

The issue isn't Peter's lack of faith in Jesus as much as it is Peter's lack of faith in himself. Is his word credible? Will Jesus be able to count on him again?

At the Last Supper, Jesus had told the disciples that to demonstrate their love for him, they were to love each other. But at that time, that simple command didn't sound heroic enough for Peter. He wanted to declare his love for Jesus in a grandiose way. So he shouted that he loved Jesus so much he was ready to die for him – only to find hours later that he wasn't ready at all.

What Peter needs now is not just forgiveness. He needs to be restored to wholeness. And so Jesus tells him, "I don't need your heroism, Peter. I don't need grand gestures or declarations of love. You just need to express that love in action by feeding my sheep."

5. *Why do you think "Do you love me?" is such an important question to Jesus?*

"Instead of saying I'm here to prove myself, think of it as I'm here to improve myself."

Adam Grant with Brene Brown on Dare to Lead Podcast,
Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know

6. *In what areas have you felt the need to prove yourself?*

When our deeper motivation for doing the things we do is wanting to prove ourselves, we will often end up hurting others and ourselves, and ultimately fail. That's what happened to Peter. But when our motivation is love, it pushes us to go beyond our own self-interest and our narrow hearts to give of ourselves and grow to become the people God made us to be.

7. *What are some ways you can help take care of others?*

8. *How many fish did Peter and the disciples catch after Jesus told them to throw their net off to the right side of their boat? What is the significance of the number of fish?*

"Speaking of himself as the vine and of his disciples as the branches, Jesus says: "Make your home in me, as I make mine in you" (John 15:4). This is an invitation to intimacy."

9. *How true is this of you and your life currently? Is this an area you desire to grow in?*

When Jesus asks, "Do you love me?" he is actually saying, "Please make your home in me as I make mine in you." And from this safe space, you can learn from your mistakes, heal from your failings and let God's love flow through you to a world in need.