



Part 5: *Grace for Failures*

A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep.

-- *John 21:17 (New Living Translation)*

In this intimate exchange, the risen Jesus gives Peter three opportunities to reconcile with him, reversing his three statements of denial with three expressions of agape (love) and fidelity. It is an act of forgiveness and reconciliation of Jesus' part, and it exemplifies the new life in God's realm of Resurrection.

-- John Dear

Certainly Jesus did not intend to cause Peter grief, but often growth and change takes place only as believers are confronted with the painful realities of their shortcomings.

-- J. Carl Laney, *Moody Gospel Commentary on John*

Before God can use a man greatly, He must wound him deeply.

-- A.W. Tozer

Jesus is helping Peter to find his equilibrium once more. He is not the greatest disciple. He does not love Jesus more than the rest. Neither is he the worst disciple, as his recent moral failure might lead him to believe. He is a follower...what matters is who he follows.

-- Michael Card

Have Thine own way, Lord,
Have Thine own way.
Thou art the Potter,
I am the clay,
Mold me and make me
After Thy will.
While I am waiting, yielded and still.
-- Adelaide Pollard

"And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you"

-- 1 Peter 5:10