

## Bible notes for W.B. 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### **Peter**

- If you could go back to any time in your life and change it, what would it be?

Peter may have wished for a time machine. He was the classic ‘mess things up’ man. He was so like us, saying the wrong things, making repeated mistakes. He shows us his humanity.

Read John 21:1-17

In verse 14 we read that Jesus appears after His death for the third time. He appears in the upper room, then disappears. He appears when Thomas is present then disappears. I wonder where He went.

Now we see Peter coming to the breaking point in his life. He was a professional fisherman but gave up everything to become a disciple of Jesus. Everything looks promising but then, at the most important point he messes up but fails to find an opportunity to put it right with Jesus before He dies. I wonder what Peter was feeling or thinking as he wants an opportunity to say sorry. He has blown it and he is powerless to do anything about it. He has had enough. He is a broken man. He reverts to what he knows.... Fishing.

- Do you have a bolt hole when everything gets on top of you?

He goes fishing. He fishes all night..... nothing. How frustrated he must have been: how grumpy! And to add insult to injury some stranger on the beach calls out to make the point that he has no fish in the boat and then, to top it all, this stranger gives advice on what to do.

What must Peter have been thinking? We may have guessed but the thing is, he actually takes the advice and hauls up a bumper catch. Perhaps he was remembering how Jesus did the exact same thing when He first called Peter to follow Him.

There are some points to consider.

- 1 Peter was a broken man with no chance to make things right. Sometimes our brokenness pushes us away from those we love. It doesn't seem as though Peter had invited the other disciples to join him in the boat but they said they were coming. They took the step to support Peter at this time. This shows their love for him.

- Who has supported you when you were in a troubled time?

Someone once said the first rule of golf is that if you make a divot, you must immediately put it back. This gives the grass the chance to regrow before the earth dries up and the grass dies off. When life throws up divots we tend to pull away and even push God away. When we allow people in, we expose our hurt but the longer we are away, the harder it is to put things right.

- 2 Sometimes we need to take the first step. Peter and the other disciples listened and threw the nets. They could have missed the blessing but they trusted Jesus. The decision to trust or not trust was theirs. They could have ignored Him but they took the suggestion.

- Has there been a time when you have been challenged whether or not to take the first step to heal or restore a relationship?

Sometimes we may employ the ‘When, Then’ game. When he says that then I’m prepared to say this.

Someone said that unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. Taking the first step is a positive way to heal things. God took the first step to restore us on Good Friday. Now He invites us to respond to Him but we have to take the first step to receive the healing it brings.

- 3 Jesus wants to heal our brokenness. He invited the disciples to the breakfast. He had already been cooking fish because He was waiting for Peter. He had already met Mary and gave her a new purpose. Then He met Thomas and gave him a new purpose. Now He was meeting Peter. Notice that He didn’t take away what Peter had done. He walked with Peter through his brokenness to a point of restoration. He took Peter through the 3 painful times he denied Jesus. It’s difficult to walk through hurt but we need to do it to get to the other side.....

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death You are with me**  
Psalm 23

Jesus meets with Peter and gives him a new purpose. That’s what Jesus does.

- Have you received a new purpose from Jesus?

After this Peter was able to do mighty things for God because Jesus reminded Peter how much He loves him and said ‘Let’s start again.’ Then he treats Peter as though

this is the beginning again. He calls Peter 'Simon, son of John' as though he is not yet Peter. Then He gives Peter a new purpose when He says 'Feed my sheep'. Peter first met Jesus when Peter was fishing. Now he does it again to start again.

Jesus knows about our brokenness. He understands and wants to walk alongside us. We need to use any of our brokenness to take advantage of our loving support system He has provided in our loved ones and Christian friends and to invite Jesus to walk with us and give us a new purpose.

Spend time this week asking God about your purpose in God's kingdom and thanking Him for the position you have in Him.