

Sunday theme – **The risen Christ meets us in our failures.**

**Read John 18: 15-17**

**1.** This very well-known account of Peter's failure is one with which, I suspect, we can all identify. Failures to acknowledge publicly that we are followers of Jesus can happen in both what we say or don't say, in what we do or don't do.

**1a.** What are for you the particular circumstances in which this has happened or is more likely to happen?

**1b.** If you were counselling a Christian friend who was troubled by such a failure, what words of wisdom would you offer?

**Read John 21: 15 – 25**

**2.** If you wish to achieve a certain objective from a conversation, then preparation is important. We learn from reading the earlier verses in chapter 21 and from verse 20 how Jesus prepared and 'set the mood and picked the situation' for the discussion with Peter.

**2a.** What practical preparations did Jesus do?

**2b.** What can we learn from this?

**2c.** What would you say was Jesus' objectives for this discussion with Peter?

**3.** As part of the forgiving and healing process, Jesus extracts from Peter's own mouth what Peter, deep down knows, even though he failed, that he truly loves Jesus.

**3a.** What relevance does the fact that we truly love Jesus have for us when seeking forgiveness?

**3b.** What sort of relationship is there between our love for Jesus and our own forgiving of others?

**3c.** Jesus response to Peter's answer is not "That's alright then", it is to commission him to work. Is the sort of work he is told to do relevant?

**3d.** Some have suggested that the commission 'feeding and caring for my sheep' was shorthand for the complete ministry of Jesus (the Good Shepherd) whilst alive in human form, thus emphasising the rehabilitation of and renewed confidence in Peter. Would you agree with this, or do you think Jesus' ministry involved more?

(Bible used = NIV 2011 translation)

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