

Sermon Notes | The Well Community Church- Indian Service | 02012026  
Greetings in the name of the LORD and savior Jesus Christ

**FOLLOW ME** - John 21:15–19

## 1. **THE LOVE THAT RESTORES AFTER FAILURE**

Beloved, when we open to John 21:15–19, This is not a scene filled with crowds shouting or miracles being performed publicly. This is a quiet conversation, but it is one of the deepest conversations ever recorded between Jesus and one of His disciples. It is the story of restoration. It is the story of grace. It is the story of love that calls again.

The resurrection has already taken place. Jesus is alive. The tomb is empty. Death has been defeated. But even though Christ has risen, the disciples are still struggling. They are confused, uncertain, and fearful. They do not fully understand what their lives will look like now. And Peter, more than anyone, is carrying shame that feels too heavy to bear.

Peter is not just any disciple. Peter was the outspoken leader. Peter was the first to step forward. Peter was the one who said, Lord, even if everyone leaves You, I will never leave You. Peter meant it. His devotion was real. Yet when the moment of pressure came, Peter crumbled. On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter followed from a distance. He stood warming himself by the enemy's fire. And three different times, people said, "You were with Him." Three different times, Peter said, "I do not know Him." And then the rooster crowed.

Scripture says Peter went out and wept bitterly. Those tears were not casual tears. Those were the tears of a broken man. Those were the tears of regret. Those were tears of shame. Peter had denied the One who loved him most. Beloved, have you ever felt like Peter? Have you ever promised faithfulness but found yourself weak? Have you ever looked back at your own decisions and thought, "Lord, how could You ever use me again?"

Now the disciples are by the Sea of Galilee. Peter goes fishing. Sometimes people return to their old life when they don't know what else to do. Fishing was familiar. Fishing was comfortable. Fishing was what Peter knew before Jesus called him. They fish all night and catch nothing. But then Jesus appears on the shore. The Lord speaks, and emptiness becomes abundance. The nets fill.

After breakfast, Jesus turns to Peter. Notice the grace: the last time Peter denied Jesus, he stood by a fire. Now Jesus restores Peter beside another fire. God often redeems the very place of our failure.

Jesus asks, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"

Jesus does not start with accusation. He starts with affection. The first question of restoration is love. Jesus does not ask Peter, "Why did you deny Me?" He asks, "Do you love Me?"

Beloved, discipleship begins with love, not perfection. Christianity is not first about what you do. It is about who you love. The Lord does not need perfect disciples. He calls broken people and makes them new.

Three times Jesus asks the question. Three times Peter responds. Jesus is not being cruel. Jesus is being compassionate. Each question is healing one denial. Grace is rewriting Peter's story. The failure was real, but grace is greater.

Some of you need to hear this today: your failure is not final. The world may throw you away, but Jesus restores. People may cancel you, but Christ redeems. The love of Jesus reaches deeper than the worst sin.

## 2. **THE CALL TO SHEPHERD: LOVE THAT SERVES OTHERS**

After Peter answers, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You," Jesus responds, "Feed My lambs."

Then again, "Tend My sheep."

Then again, "Feed My sheep."

Every declaration of love becomes an assignment of service. Jesus is teaching that love for Him must always lead to care for others.

Beloved, love is not just emotion. Love is action. Love is responsibility. Love is commitment.

Jesus calls Peter to shepherd. And shepherding is not glamorous. It is messy. Sheep wander. Sheep get lost. Lambs are weak. Yet Jesus entrusts His flock to Peter.

The lambs represent the young believers, new converts, children in the faith. They need feeding. They need gentle care. They need teaching and patience. The sheep represent mature believers who still need nourishment. Even strong believers need encouragement. Even mature Christians need guidance.

Jesus says, "My sheep." The people belong to Him. The church belongs to Him. When we care for the church, we care for Christ's possession.

Beloved, ministry is not about platforms. Ministry is about people. The evidence that you love Jesus is how you care for others.

You cannot claim to love Christ while ignoring His body. You cannot honor the Shepherd while neglecting the sheep.

Jesus restores Peter, but He does not restore him just to make him feel better. He restores him so he can serve.

God heals you so you can help heal others. God lifts you so you can lift others. God comforts you so you can comfort others.

Peter, the man who failed, will soon preach at Pentecost. Three thousand will be saved. The one who denied will become the one who declares boldly. That is what grace does.

Beloved, following Jesus always leads to service.

### **3. THE COST OF FOLLOWING: SURRENDER THROUGH SUFFERING**

Then Jesus speaks words that grow heavier. He says, "When you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished. But when you

are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will carry you where you do not wish.”

Scripture tells us Jesus said this to show what kind of death Peter would die. Beloved, Jesus was telling Peter plainly: following Me will cost you.

Peter once lived freely. Peter did what he wanted. He went where he pleased. But discipleship means surrender.

Following Jesus is not just adding religion to your life. It is giving Him your life.

Many want blessings without burden. Many want the crown without the cross. Many want salvation without surrender.

But Jesus makes it clear: discipleship is costly.

Peter would one day die for Christ. Tradition tells us Peter was crucified upside down because he did not consider himself worthy to die like Jesus. Yet Peter followed anyway.

Why? Because Jesus is worth it.

Beloved, the Christian life is not always easy. Sometimes obedience costs friendships. Sometimes faith costs comfort. Sometimes following Jesus costs everything.

But suffering for Christ is never wasted. The cross always leads to glory.

Jesus does not call us to comfort. He calls us to faithfulness.

The call is not convenience. The call is commitment.

#### **4. FOLLOW ME: THE PERSONAL INVITATION OF CHRIST**

After restoring Peter, after commissioning Peter, after warning Peter, Jesus gives two simple words: “Follow Me.”

Beloved, these are some of the most powerful words ever spoken.

Not follow religion, Not follow tradition, Not follow crowds, Follow Me.

Christianity is not a philosophy. It is not just rules. It is relationship with Christ Himself, Jesus looks at Peter and says, “You failed, but I still want you.” Beloved, Jesus looks at you today and says the same.

Your past does not cancel your purpose, Your weakness does not stop His grace, Your failure does not end His calling, The question is not, "Have you failed?" Everyone has.

The question is, "Do you love Him?" If you love Him, then follow Him. Follow Him in service, Follow Him in surrender, Follow Him in suffering. Follow Him until the end.

## **CONCLUSION**

Beloved, John 21:15–19 shows us the Gospel in a conversation. Love restores. Grace recommissions. Discipleship requires surrender. Christ calls personally.

Jesus is still asking today, "Do you love Me?"

And if your heart says yes, then His command remains: "Follow Me."

Follow it. Follow the Savior. Follow Him fully. Follow Him forever. Amen.