

# FOLLOW ME

WEEK 7

HARVEST  
BIBLE  
CHAPEL

JOHN 21:15-19

Jesus Is Calling ME

God speaks to you through His Word. When your heart is eager and ready, the Spirit will use the hearing of God's Word to speak to you. The location does not matter, nor does it matter if you are in solitude or a massive crowd. The Word of God can be boldly proclaimed to many at once, yet touch your heart in such a way that it feels like the message was perfectly crafted and individualized for your ears and heart only. When was the last time you heard a message preached, and you felt that the message was directly for you? Sometimes when listening to a message, you can start thinking about who needs to hear it, maybe the person sitting next to you, a small group member, or someone in your family. As a result, you can miss out on the message God had for you. What can you do to prepare your heart to hear the Word of God preached, so that you receive it as a message for you, and not for someone else?

## I MUST SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN:

**1. Who I Was and Who I Am.** Read John 21:15-17. Peter was a man who wore his heart on his sleeve—so to speak. Whatever he was thinking either came out of his mouth or came out through his emotions. His emotional highs were like a mountain top experience, and his lows like a deep valley. The disciples had just finished breakfast, and Peter was at an ultimate low. Jesus had just foretold Peter that he would deny Him three times (Luke 22:31-34), but Peter swore his allegiance to Christ saying, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." In the end, Peter did deny Christ three times (Luke 22:54-62). After breakfast, Peter had to be wondering, "What does Christ think about me?" "Does He even love me anymore?" "Will Christ ever trust me or use me again for His kingdom?" How can you relate to what Peter was maybe thinking or feeling? Explain a time you wondered what Christ thought about you, because you "denied" Him in some way.

With all the disciples still gathered around following breakfast, Christ intently chooses to engage in a conversation with Peter. The usually animated Peter was probably feeling pretty sheepish and nervous about why Christ was speaking to him personally. Jesus calls to Peter saying, "Simon, son of John." Jesus had not called Peter this since first meeting Peter (John 1:42), and called him to be a disciple. No doubt this caught Peter's attention! In the most loving and gracious way, Jesus was reminding Peter about who he was, but in an even better way, who he is now! Reminding Peter about who he was when Christ had first called him, brought about a sense of release from his own condemning thoughts, and renewed his spirit as a disciple of Christ. Christ was not done with Peter. Rather, Christ wanted to continue to restore him. Only when you have the proper perspective of who God is, can you have the right perspective of who you are in Christ. When you are having doubts about God's view of you, what attributes or scripture passages does the Spirit bring to your mind, to remind you of who you are in Christ?

**2. What I Say and What I Do.** "Actions speak louder than words" is a common saying you have probably heard. What you say can be a window to your heart's desires. But when life squeezes you hard, your actions, far more than your words, will reveal your heart. Matt put it this way during the message about desires - *My desires are: Revealed when the stakes are high. Redeemed through humility. Refined through suffering.* As you have matured in Christ, how have your desires changed? Jesus was pressing into Peter hard by essentially saying, "do not say that you love me, show that you love me by caring for the flock of God." This is not Jesus promoting works-based salvation, instead it was Jesus priming and poking into the depths of Peter's heart. Have you ever been in a high-pressure situation in which your actions were either going to reinforce what you say about your faith or debunk it? Share with the group.

**3. My Biggest Failure and His Perfect Plan.** Read John 21:18-19. Jesus is in the business of restoration. Even your biggest failures cannot separate you from His love and His perfect plan for your life. Christ foretells Peter's future death on a cross in verse 18b, "but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." Peter would be given another opportunity to either deny Christ or follow Him, even to the point of death. God's perfect plan for Peter clearly involved redemption over his biggest failures. How has God relentlessly pursued you despite your own failures? How have you seen God restore you and invite you to other opportunities to follow Him?

## READING PLAN:

MONDAY

Romans 8

TUESDAY

Matthew 16:13-28

WEDNESDAY

Luke 22:31-34  
Luke 22:54-62

THURSDAY

Acts 2:14-41

FRIDAY

John 14:15-31