



RESTORATION

EARL AND SANDRA WILSON

(John 21:15-19)

It's a wonderful experience to be restored in a relationship that has been broken because of sin. Peter experienced this. The story in John 21:15-19 describes how Jesus restored Peter to fellowship with Himself after Peter had sinned by denying His Savior. Three times Christ asked if Peter loved Him; three times Peter responded that he did; three times Christ responded by giving Peter the responsibility to care for His flock—the believers. When Jesus spoke to Peter with the words, "Follow Me," He restored Peter to fellowship and reinstated him as a disciple. What a glorious moment that must have been for Peter!

David also experienced the blessing of being restored. After he had committed the sins of adultery and murder (2 Sam. 11), he repented and faced the consequences of his sin (Ps. 51). He concluded his repentance with the prayer, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Ps. 51:10). David longed to be restored to fellowship with God.

RESULTS OF RESTORATION

Restoration comes when believers:

1. Admit their sin (confession).
2. Turn from their sin (repentance).
3. Accept responsibility for the consequences of their sin (restitution).
4. Face the truth about what they have done and learn to live with truth as a focus of their life.
5. Allow God to replace their powerlessness with His power (humility).
6. Walk in the light of their renewed relationship with God, their family, and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

But how do believers who have fallen into sin get to this point? It often happens through the intercession of caring brothers or sisters in Christ who are called by God to be "restorers."

A PATTERN FOR RESTORATION

Galatians 6:1-6 emphasizes the responsibility of Christians to be involved in the restoration of others who are "overtaken in any trespass." Restoration is God's work carried out by brothers or sisters who are mature in the faith, watchful, and caring.

Revealing the Fruit of Gentleness

When it comes to participating in the restoration of a fallen brother or sister, believers should "restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness" (Gal. 6:1). The biblical balance is gentleness toward the sinner and firmness against the sin. Note the careful warning in that same verse: "considering yourself lest you also be tempted." Believers must be careful because they might be tempted to feel that they are better than the one needing restoration. The sin of pride could leave them in need of restoration themselves.

Bearing One Another's Burdens

The next verse says that believers must "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). Carrying one another's burdens means to be actively involved in helping. Luke 5:17-19 gives an example of a man's friends who literally carried another's burden—the man him-

self, because he was paralyzed—and brought him to Jesus for healing. They acted, Jesus responded, and the man was made whole. The formerly paralyzed man experienced the joy of restoration—both physically and spiritually—and his friends had the joy of seeing God work.

Restoring sinners is not an option. It is a responsibility. When believers are involved as restorers, they are fulfilling the law of Christ. It follows that to ignore a brother or sister caught in sin is to disobey the law of Christ.

Remaining Humble

God really knows every human being inside out. He knows how easy it is for people to become proud, especially when they are used to help another person. Helping others to be restored must never become a source of pride. "For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself" (Gal. 6:3). The work of restoration is given to some people as a blessing from God Himself. And they should see it as a gift from Him. It allows them to be blessed by God as they do a special work. They get to see God's love, grace, and mercy in action. It can be a life-changing experience. Even so, Paul gave a strong warning against pride, reminding his readers that God does the changing. People are just His instruments.

Examining Ourselves

Galatians 6:4, 5 calls each restorer to "examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load." These verses provide important teaching about two very confusing questions. The first question is, "Do I have to downplay my ability or deny what God has done through me in order to avoid the sin of pride?" Clearly the answer is no. The text says people should examine their own work, and then they will have rejoicing in

themselves alone. Looking carefully inside themselves can help people to understand their weaknesses and vulnerability, even as they also see the abilities God has given them to do what He asks them to do.

The second question, "How do I avoid pride if I acknowledge the good I have done?" also has a clear answer: Believers must not compare themselves with others. Their concern isn't whether or not they are better than another person. Their concern should be to keep in step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:25) so that God can continue to show His power in them.

Galatians 6:6 says, "Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches." This verse indicates a partnership between the believer and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit instructs His people; He also produces the blessing that results from their obedient, caring efforts.

FURTHER MEDITATION:

Other passages to study about the issue of restoration include:

- Leviticus 19:18
- Matthew 18:15-17
- Romans 12:17-21
- 2 Corinthians 7:10
- 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- Philemon 10-12

To Learn More: Turn to the key passage note on restoration at Galatians 6:1-5 on page 1543. See also the personality profile of David on page 418.

flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery,^a fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders,^a drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,

peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

BEAR AND SHARE THE BURDENS

6 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore

5:19 ^aNU-Text omits *adultery*. 5:21 ^aNU-Text omits *murders*.

SOUL NOTE



God's Fruit (5:22, 23) What do we value most in life? Many people try self-improvement or self-awareness programs to find meaning and purpose. These two verses hold the secret to becoming exactly what God desires. The "fruit of the Spirit" are not works that believers must accomplish so they can check them off as they "grow" them. Instead, these fruit grow naturally as the produce of the Holy Spirit's ministry in a person's life. As we grow in the Christian faith, these characteristics should increasingly be manifested in our lives. The key is for us to submit our lives to Christ daily, allowing Him to work in and through us. That should be our highest value.

Topic: Values

KEY PASSAGE



Restoration

BACK TO THE BODY

(6:1-5)

Although all believers have been born again, they still face the dilemma of the sin nature. At times, this can overwhelm a believer, causing involvement in destructive sin. So what should other believers do for a brother or sister who is "overtaken in any trespass"?

Paul had advised elsewhere that discipline may be required (as in 1 Cor. 5), but its purpose should always be to restore the believer to the fellowship. Those who seek out an erring believer must come in a "spirit of gentleness," realizing that they also are sinners constantly in need of God's grace and forgiveness. The fallen but repentant believer is not neglected or rejected but rather is helped, encouraged, prayed over, offered assistance, and warmly welcomed back into the fellowship. Restoration helps a repentant believer get back on track and continue to grow; it humbles the church to realize the reality of sin; and it reveals the grace and power of Almighty God.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about restoration on pages 1412, 1413. See also the personality profile of David on page 418.

servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is like the angel of God. Therefore do *what is good* in your eyes. ²⁸For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king. Yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table. Therefore what right have I still to cry out anymore to the king?"

²⁹So the king said to him, "Why do you speak anymore of your matters? I have said, 'You and Ziba divide the land.' "

³⁰Then Mephibosheth said to the king, "Rather, let him take it all, inasmuch as my lord the king has come back in peace to his own house."

DAVID'S KINDNESS TO BARZILLAI

³¹And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim and went across the Jordan with the king, to escort him across the Jordan. ³²Now Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years

old. And he had provided the king with supplies while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very rich man. ³³And the king said to Barzillai, "Come across with me, and I will provide for you while you are with me in Jerusalem."

³⁴But Barzillai said to the king, "How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? ³⁵I *am* today eighty years old. Can I discern between the good and bad? Can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear any longer the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be a further burden to my lord the king? ³⁶Your servant will go a little way across the Jordan with the king. And why should the king repay me *with* such a reward? ³⁷Please let your servant turn back again, that I may die in my own city, near the grave of my father and mother. But here is your servant Chimham; let him cross over with my lord the king, and do for him what seems good to you."

PERSONALITY PROFILE



Restoration

DAVID RESTORED

(2 SAMUEL 19:9-43)

When the Scriptures report that David was a man after God's own heart, the implication is not that he was perfect or without sin. David proved himself capable of shocking sinfulness.

He lied, lusted, deceived others, committed adultery, murdered someone who trusted him, neglected his family, and failed as a father. He willfully disobeyed God. He suffered deeply as a result of his transgressions.

Then why did God have such a high regard for this all-too-fallible king? David was a humble man—approachable, merciful, just in his rulings, repentant in spirit, and faithful to God. He had a deep confidence in God's grace and mercy. He was assured that God's good plans included both himself and the nation of Israel.

When confronted with his sins, David did not hesitate to repent. His sins were terrible, but he did not persist in them. Even when the way back to fellowship with God was paved with pain, David readily returned. That was the heart for God that endeared David to his Maker.

Even after losing his kingdom to his son Absalom, David's confidence remained fixed on God. He understood that much of the chaos in his life was self-inflicted. He did not cut himself off from God's grace. He also accepted the restoration of the kingdom that God accomplished on David's behalf. He understood God had a large plan, and that David's family was part of it. David's heart for God was a lasting heritage in the lineage of Jesus Christ. The term "Son of David" (Matt. 1:1) by which Jesus identified Himself, offers a timeless tribute to the depth and length of God's restoration. The Son of God was also the Son of David. No one is beyond God's reach or too lost for His grace.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about restoration on pages 1412, 1413. See also the key passage note at Galatians 6:1-5 on page 1543.

ASSYRIA REFUSES TO HELP JUDAH

¹⁶At the same time King Ahaz sent to the kings^a of Assyria to help him. ¹⁷For again the Edomites had come, attacked Judah, and carried away captives. ¹⁸The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the lowland and of the South of Judah, and had taken Beth Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Sochoh with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages; and they dwelt there. ¹⁹For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD. ²⁰Also Tiglath-Pileser^a king of Assyria came to him and distressed him, and did not assist him. ²¹For Ahaz took part of the treasures from the house of the LORD, from the house of the king, and from the leaders, and he gave it to the king of Assyria; but he did not help him.

APOSTASY AND DEATH OF AHAZ

²²Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the LORD. This is that King Ahaz. ²³For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him, saying, "Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me." But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel. ²⁴So Ahaz gathered the articles of the house of God, cut in pieces the articles of the house of God, shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and made for himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem. ²⁵And in every single city of Judah he made high places to burn incense to other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers.

²⁶Now the rest of his acts and all his ways, from first to last, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. ²⁷So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried

him in the city, in Jerusalem; but they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

HEZEKIAH REIGNS IN JUDAH

29 Hezekiah became king *when he was* twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah^a the daughter of Zechariah. ²And he did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

HEZEKIAH CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

³In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them. ⁴Then he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them in the East Square, ⁵and said to them: "Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish from the holy place. ⁶For our fathers have trespassed and done evil in the eyes of the LORD our God; they have forsaken Him, have turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the LORD, and turned *their backs on Him*. ⁷They have also shut up the doors of the vestibule, put out the lamps, and have not burned incense or offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel. ⁸Therefore the wrath of the LORD fell upon Judah and Jerusalem, and He has given them up to trouble, to desolation, and to jeering, as you see with your eyes. ⁹For indeed, because of this our fathers have fallen by the sword; and our sons, our daughters, and our wives are in captivity.

28:16 ^aSeptuagint, Syriac, and Vulgate read *king* (compare verse 20). **28:20** ^aHebrew *Tilgath-Pileser* **29:1** ^aSpelled *Abi* in 2 Kings 18:2

SOUL NOTE



Sudden and Decisive (29:1, 2) Hezekiah was determined to restore the nation to spiritual greatness. "He did what was right in the sight of the LORD," and challenged the priests (29:4) and the rulers (29:20) to renew their commitments to God. He cleansed the temple and restored proper worship, bringing about a dramatic spiritual revival. So dramatic were his actions that the changes seemed to have taken place suddenly (29:36). Spiritual revival may result from a long process of growth and commitment. It also may come suddenly as a result of a deliberate and decisive response to God's calling in our lives. **Topic: Restoration**

³⁵Also the burnt offerings *were* in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings and *with* the drink offerings for *every* burnt offering.

So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order. ³⁶Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly.

HEZEKIAH KEEPS THE PASSOVER

30 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel. ²For the king and his leaders and all the assembly in Jerusalem had agreed to keep the Passover in the second month. ³For they could not keep it at the regular time,^a because a sufficient number of priests had not consecrated themselves, nor had the people gathered together at Jerusalem. ⁴And the matter pleased the king and all the assembly. ⁵So they resolved to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem, since they had not done *it* for a long time in the *prescribed* manner.

⁶Then the runners went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his leaders, and spoke according to the command of the king: "Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. ⁷And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see. ⁸Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, that the

fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you. ⁹For if you return to the LORD, your brethren and your children *will be treated* with compassion by those who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the LORD your God *is* gracious and merciful, and will not turn *His* face from you if you return to Him."

¹⁰So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun; but they laughed at them and mocked them. ¹¹Nevertheless some from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. ¹²Also the hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the LORD.

¹³Now many people, a very great assembly, gathered at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month. ¹⁴They arose and took away the altars that *were* in Jerusalem, and they took away all the incense altars and cast *them* into the Brook Kidron.

¹⁵Then they slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought the burnt offerings to the house of the LORD.

¹⁶They stood in their place according to their custom, according to the Law of Moses the man of God; the priests sprinkled the blood *received* from the hand of the Levites. ¹⁷For *there were* many in the assembly who had not sanctified themselves; therefore the Levites had charge of the slaughter of the Passover lambs for everyone *who was* not clean, to sanctify *them* to the LORD. ¹⁸For a multitude of the people, many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed

30:3 ^aThat is, the first month (compare Leviticus 23:5); literally *at that time*

SOUL NOTE



Return (30:6-12) The northern tribes had broken away from Judah and the line of Davidic kings, setting up a system of idolatry. When Hezekiah led the southern kingdom into a spiritual revival, he wrote to the northern tribes and appealed to them to return to the temple in Jerusalem to worship the Lord. He reminded them that God is gracious and merciful to all who will return to Him. In response, some mocked God, but many humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. God promises restoration for those who will return to Him. **Topic: Restoration**

acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold.

¹²Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. ¹³He also had seven sons and

three daughters. ¹⁴And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch. ¹⁵In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

¹⁶After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. ¹⁷So Job died, old and full of days.

SOUL NOTE



A Refuge (42:12) At the end of the book, God reverses the circumstances of Job's life, doubling his possessions and granting him more children. This did not erase the pain of Job's previous losses—these were never forgotten. God chose to liberally apply the salve of restoration to Job's grief. During his great pain, Job could have cursed God (2:9); instead, he chose to trust in God's faithfulness and justice. We can see our trials as opportunities to experience God's faithfulness, trusting Him completely. Complete restoration may not occur in this life, but God is faithful and will give us more than we can imagine. **Topic: Restoration**

A CALL TO REPENTANCE

1 In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet, saying, ²"The LORD has been very angry with your fathers. ³Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Return to Me," says the LORD of hosts, "and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. ⁴"Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds."' But they did not hear nor heed Me," says the LORD.

"Your fathers, where *are* they?
And the prophets, do they live forever?
Yet surely My words and My statutes,
Which I commanded My servants the
prophets,
Did they not overtake your fathers?

"So they returned and said:

'Just as the LORD of hosts determined to
do to us,
According to our ways and according to
our deeds,
So He has dealt with us.' " " "

VISION OF THE HORSES

⁷On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which is the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo the prophet: ⁸I saw by night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse, and it stood among the myrtle trees in the hollow; and behind him *were* horses: red, sorrel, and white. ⁹Then I said, "My lord, what *are* these?" So

the angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what they *are*."

¹⁰And the man who stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, "These *are the ones* whom the LORD has sent to walk to and fro throughout the earth."

¹¹So they answered the Angel of the LORD, who stood among the myrtle trees, and said, "We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly."

THE LORD WILL COMFORT ZION

¹²Then the Angel of the LORD answered and said, "O LORD of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?"

¹³And the LORD answered the angel who talked to me, *with good and comforting words*. ¹⁴So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts:

"I am zealous for Jerusalem
And for Zion with great zeal.

¹⁵ I am exceedingly angry with the nations
at ease;
For I was a little angry,
And they helped—but with evil *intent*."

¹⁶Therefore thus says the LORD:

"I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy;
My house shall be built in it," says the
LORD of hosts,

"And a surveyor's line shall be stretched
out over Jerusalem."

¹⁷Again proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts:

SOUL NOTE



God's Comfort (1:17) Zechariah rehearsed Judah's checkered past. God had warned the Judeans to abandon their wicked ways, but the people had refused.

So God punished them by allowing their enemies to take them into captivity.

Despite the people's disobedience, however, God showed mercy on them. He put in the hearts of King Cyrus, and later King Darius, to allow a group of exiles to return to Jerusalem. Once more they would live in their land, fulfilling Zechariah's prophecy that the Lord "will again comfort Zion." When people turn from their sin, God promises comfort and restoration. **Topic: Restoration**

²³Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing.

THE DISCIPLES ARGUE ABOUT GREATNESS

²⁴Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. ²⁵And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' ²⁶But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

²⁸"But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. ²⁹And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, ³⁰that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIAL

³¹And the Lord said,^a "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

³³But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."

³⁴Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."

SUPPLIES FOR THE ROAD

³⁵And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?"

So they said, "Nothing."

³⁶Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. ³⁷For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: '*And He was numbered with the transgressors.*'"^a For the things concerning Me have an end."

³⁸So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords."

And He said to them, "It is enough."

THE PRAYER IN THE GARDEN

³⁹Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. ⁴⁰When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

⁴¹And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴²saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." ⁴³Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.^a

⁴⁵When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. ⁴⁶Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

BETRAYAL AND ARREST IN GETHSEMANE

⁴⁷And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one

^{22:31} ^aNU-Text omits *And the Lord said*.

^{22:37} ^aIsaiah 53:12 ^{22:44} ^aNU-Text brackets verses 43 and 44 as not in the original text.



SOUL NOTE

Overwhelmed (22:31, 32) What grace Jesus showed to Peter! Satan had asked for Peter, wanting to "sift" him like wheat. Jesus said that He had prayed for Peter that his "faith should not fail." Then afterward, Peter should return and strengthen his brothers. Peter would deny Christ and face painful sorrow. His faith did not fail, however, and Jesus restored him (John 21). Believers can make painful mistakes, but through those difficult times they learn of God's grace. When they return to Christ, they can take the lessons they learned and strengthen other believers about sin, temptation, and God's grace. **Topic: Restoration**

of the twelve near to Jesus him, "Judas, a with a kiss?"

⁴⁹When the going to happy shall we strike them struck in cut off his right

⁵¹But Jesus even this." And him.

⁵²Then Jesus tains of the ter come to Him, a robber, with was with you try to seize Me. power of darkness



with Peter's in God's lessons Peter had never be made stopped Peter night. Peter sur to defend Jesus Jesus to the cor the fire, trying tragic truth of P Jesus.

In truth, Pe bravado had to When Peter loc realized what he Unlike his f forgiven and resi stronger, humble Failure can what not to do. first step toward wants us to be.

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