

10 November 2013: Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew

**Topic: The Life of Apostle Peter – The Restoration of Peter**

Scripture Text: John 21: 1-13

1. Sometimes when a Christian falls into sin, he can be very discouraged and ashamed and wants to give up serving God. He feels unworthy and useless before God. In John 21, Peter was in such a situation after he had committed a grievous sin of denying the Lord Jesus three times.

2. Peter had boasted that he would die for the Lord Jesus but he was relying on his self-confidence and hence he failed the Lord. Peter decided to retire from serving Jesus and go back to his previous career as a fisherman. But the Lord Jesus loved Peter and would restore him spiritually. This would be the 6th appearance that Jesus would show Himself after His resurrection.

3. When Peter went back to fishing, his fellow disciples followed him. Peter was a leader and he was not a good spiritual influence to others. The Lord Jesus would need to restore Peter in a brand new way so that Peter would never rely on his own self-confidence again but on Christ only. In this way, Peter would be greatly used by the Lord and set a good example as a leader too. The life of the restored Peter could be seen in Acts and indeed he was greatly used by the Lord.

4. In the whole night of fishing, Peter and the disciples could not catch anything. Then Jesus who was on the shore in the morning told them to cast their net and there was a big catch of 153 fishes. This was very similar to the first time that Jesus called Peter to be fishers of men and to give up his fishing net. The Lord Jesus used the same incident to remind Peter of his calling to serve in the ministry.

5. Peter counted the 153 fishes and yet the net was not broken. This was another important lesson to Peter in his restoration that the Lord Jesus was not there to destroy and cast him away. As the net was not broken, Jesus did not give up on Peter and could still use him. The lesson was for Peter to break his self-confidence and pride.

6. The Lord Jesus prepared breakfast for Peter to show His communion and care for Peter. Jesus then asked Peter three times if Peter loves Him. The restoration was completed when Peter acknowledged that he truly loves Jesus.