

## Sermon Notes

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026  
*40 Days: Lakes & Lambs*  
-John 21.1-17-

### The Setup: A Familiar Shore (John 21.1-14)

- Post-resurrection, Jesus appears a third time to seven disciples
- Peter returns to fishing; they catch nothing all night
- Jesus appears at dawn, redirects the net, and the catch is overwhelming
- Jesus prepares breakfast before He says a single corrective word
- He tended to them before He talked to them

### The Conversation: Simon, Not Peter (John 21.15-17)

- Jesus uses Peter's birth name, addressing the man beneath the title
- Three questions mirror three denials (John 18.17-27)
- Three responses: Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep.
- Fishing language called Peter in. Shepherd language calls Peter forward.

### Denial Is Not Betrayal

- Peter denied; Judas betrayed.
- Only one carries a label in Scripture
  - Matthew 26.46, Mark 3.19, Luke 6.16, John 18.5
- What made Judas's failure permanent was the absence of return
- Your failure only becomes your identity when you walk away before the restoration scene
- Jesus prayed for Peter's return before Peter even fell (Luke 22.32)

### Lakes for Lambs

- Jesus never calls Peter to do what he already knows how to do
- Fishing extracts. Shepherding cultivates, protects, and nurtures.
- Peter was already shepherding without a title. Jesus redirected what was already there.
- You cannot give away what you have never received

### Two Closing Questions

- What label have you been living under that Jesus never signed off on?
- What past identity are you clinging to that Jesus may be asking you to change?

### Study Questions

- Read John 21.15-17 alongside Luke 22.31-32. What does Jesus interceding for Peter before the denial reveal about how God handles our failures?
- Where in your life has Jesus been developing something in you that you have not yet recognized as a calling?