

The 6th Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday May 10, 2026
“Joy Takes Root ~ Rebuilding What Was Broken”
Psalm 40 // Jeremiah 18:1-11 // John 21:15-19

The kind of joy Jesus gives isn't _____ or fragile, nor does it depend on everything going _____ in our lives. It's deeper and stronger than that. It's the kind of joy that can take root, and flourishes, even in _____ soil.

It's hard to overstate how deeply that moment would have cut. This wasn't just a mistake; it was total _____—a failure at the very point where Peter thought he was strongest. This wasn't the kind of failure you can brush off with a shrug or laugh about later, but the kind that lingers, _____ in our mind, and leaves us wondering if something important has been damaged—maybe even beyond repair.

All three of our readings this morning focus not on our failure, but on God's _____. They show us that God doesn't just restore lives, He brings a new _____, a fresh start, and _____ calling.

Joy that takes what has been broken and _____ it. Joy that meets us in our failure and _____ us up. Joy that tells us our worst moments don't have the _____ word.

Lesson #1: _____.
“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter...” (John 21:15)

There's something disarmingly _____ about how this moment begins.

“Simon, son of John, do you love me?” (John 21:15)

Notice this conversation isn't _____ by Peter. It's Jesus who takes the first step, begins the conversation, and refuses to leave Peter at a _____.

This tells us something vital right from the start: the work of restoration doesn't begin with our reaching out to Jesus, but with Him _____ out to us.

Jesus is bringing Peter back—gently and deliberately—to the scene of his _____. Not to shame him or rub his face in it, but because true healing doesn't happen by pretending the _____ didn't happen. It happens when grace meets us right in the place where things went wrong—the place we'd much rather _____.

However, when Jesus brings us back to these places, He doesn't meet us with condemnation, but with _____.

“He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog...” (Psalm 40:2)

God doesn't stand at a _____ and shout instructions down into the pit. ...He comes down into the mess, into the instability, into the place where our footing has given way, and He _____ us up.

We see this same truth in Jeremiah 18. The clay in the potter's hand is _____. It hasn't turned out as intended. However, the potter doesn't discard it or throw it off the wheel in frustration. He keeps working with it—_____ it with patient, steady hands.

He meets him not at his best moment, but at his _____. Not after Peter has proven himself again, but while the failure is still _____. Not once Peter has sorted himself out, but right in the middle of the _____ tension.

However, this passage won't let us stay there because in it we see that Jesus isn't interested in a distant, _____ relationship with Peter. He moves towards him. He sits with him. He speaks to him. He engages him right at the point of _____. This tells us that the place we're most tempted to _____ is the very place Jesus wants to meet us.

This is important because the joy that takes root—the real, lasting joy of the Christian life—doesn't grow by _____ our failures; it grows when we discover that even there, Jesus comes to meet us.

Lesson #2: _____.
“Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” (John 21:15)

Three _____ around a charcoal fire in the High Priest's courtyard, and now three opportunities to re-affirm _____ around a charcoal fire by the shoreline. This isn't Jesus rubbing Peter's nose in his failure. This is Jesus carefully, gently, honestly, and intentionally _____ what's been broken. He doesn't pretend it didn't happen, but He also doesn't _____ it either; He _____ it.

That's how Jesus always works—not by ignoring the _____ or crushing us with it, but by bringing truth and grace together in a way that actually _____.

Notice how _____ this is. Jesus doesn't speak in generalities—He doesn't say, “Peter, you've had a rough week,” or “Let's just move on.” He goes right to the heart: “Do you love me?” Why? Because the centre of Peter's failure wasn't just fear, it was a breakdown in _____.

This is the turning point because restoration begins not when we _____

ourselves again, but when we place ourselves _____ before the One who already knows.

We also see this in Jeremiah 18. The clay was marred, and something went wrong in the shaping, but the potter doesn't _____ it. He keeps working it—pressing, shaping, reforming—until something _____ begins to emerge.

He's not discarding Peter; He's _____ him. This is careful work. Intentional work. Not rushed or _____. Peter isn't being restored in spite of his failure, he's being restored _____ it.

He restores him personally, relationally, and _____. This is good news. It tells us that in Christ, our failures don't have the final word over our _____.

Restoration does require something of us. It requires _____. Peter doesn't deflect. He doesn't _____ or minimize. He answers the question

God doesn't discard broken disciples—He _____ them. Not quickly, not superficially, but fully. And when He restores, He doesn't just patch things up, He makes something new.

Lesson #3: _____.

If the conversation ended with restoration, that alone would be good news. However, Jesus doesn't stop there because the goal of this conversation isn't simply to help Peter feel better about himself or to heal his past; it's about restoring his _____.

Notice how after each of Peter's responses, Jesus gives him a _____: "Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep."

Restoration in the kingdom of God is never just about the _____—it always leads into _____. Jesus doesn't just forgive Peter. He doesn't just restore the relationship. He _____ him: "Feed my sheep." This involves leadership, responsibility, and _____.

A renewed life, not a _____ of the old one. This is a reset and fresh start that doesn't pretend the past didn't happen, just that it doesn't get the _____ word.

"He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord." (Psalm 40:3)

Did you catch the movement here? Rescue to restoration to _____. The one who was in the pit now has a _____. The one who was stuck now

becomes a _____. The one who was broken now becomes a means of strengthening others.

By the time we reach the Book of Acts, we see Peter standing up in front of crowds, proclaiming Christ _____. It wasn't Peter's natural strength or personality that had changed, but that he'd been restored by Jesus—and _____ again.

People who've walked through failure, hardship, or deep struggle, and have come out the other side, are often the most _____, grounded, and helpful to others—not because they have it all together, but because they know what it's like not to.

Their past doesn't disqualify them; it _____ them.

This tells us that in the hands of Jesus, our failures don't _____ us from our calling—they often become part of how we live that calling out.

This doesn't mean there are aren't _____ or that everything goes back to the way it was. But it does mean that God isn't _____ with us. Our usefulness in His kingdom isn't over. Our story isn't defined by our worst moment. And our _____ isn't cancelled because we stumbled along the way.

In fact, for many of us, the very places where we've known weakness, regret, or _____ become the places where God gives us the deepest compassion and the clearest sense of _____ because we no longer serve out of pride, but out of _____.

Jesus doesn't simply restore broken disciples—He _____ us in our failure, restores what has been broken, and then sends us out again—with purpose, responsibility, and grace.

That's where real joy begins to take root—not when we pretend we've never failed, but when we discover that even after failure, Jesus still calls us to _____ Him.



However, the Gospel says otherwise—it tells us that Jesus still comes _____ for His disciples. He still meets us in the places we'd rather _____. He still speaks words of _____ over lives that feel like they've come apart. And more than that—He still calls us _____. Not because we've proven ourselves again or somehow earned a second chance, but because His grace is _____ than our failure, and His purposes aren't so easily undone.

The same Jesus who stood on that shore and spoke to Peter still meets His people today. And, if we love Him, the _____ remains the same: "Follow me."