

Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting is **TODAY** at 3pm. Children and Youth ministries plan to meet.
- **NOTE:** We will NOT meet next week (5/11) to allow everyone to spend more time with their families on *Mother's Day*. We will next meet on the 3rd Sunday (5/18). In June we will return to our normal 2nd & 4th Sunday meeting pattern.
- The Pentecost Today USA leadership conference will be in Houston on October 10-12. There is a \$50 discount if you register before May 15th. Click [here](#).
- [GodsDelight.org](#) has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please enter your 2025 Promise [here](#), donate online [here](#), or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

Anytime I have reflected on today's Gospel I have found it interesting that Jesus asks Peter the same question three times. Bible commentaries will point out the connection to Peter's three denials. This makes sense. I heard another connection at mass last night. The bible makes exactly two references to a charcoal fire, and again, both are in reference to Peter. The first during his denial and the second in the Gospel today.

While reflecting on these two connections I recalled the Community's teaching on reconciliation. (As an aside, you can listen to two recent prayer meeting teachings on this subject [HERE](#)...click on *Living a Reconciled Life* and *Living a Reconciled Life 2 - Wounds*.) Our teaching on reconciliation emphasizes the need for restoration. Restoration happens when we formally repent, ask forgiveness, and receive back words of "I forgive You".

It is likely therefore that the charcoal fire is there to place Peter at the scene of his denial. Jesus asking him three times is meant to offer healing and restoration to Peter. Today can be an opportunity for each of us to spend time considering our own need to give and receive restoration. Whom might we need to reconcile with? What concrete actions do we need to take to bring about this restoration? Jesus provides an example in *proactive* restoration. Maybe we too need to be proactive and ask the Holy Spirit what relationships need to be healed and for grace to be proactive in taking the first step.

The second thing that stood out to me in reflecting on the passage was Jesus' response to Peter on all three "I love you" responses, namely the exhortation to tend His sheep. Jesus was with His disciples for three years and focused on two objectives: Formation and Love. He taught and He loved. His ministry was forming disciples and witnessing great love through acts of loving service. His words to Peter were very clear, He was asking Peter to follow His example and do the same.

Much of the Acts of the Apostles reveal that, filled the with Holy Spirit the apostles were able to literally do the same loving selfless acts, including miracles, that Jesus did. We in the Charismatic Renewal are empowered with the same Holy Spirit and have the same mandate. Maybe today's reading is intended as a wakeup call for us to recommit to prioritizing tending to Jesus' sheep. Maybe we have become comfortable in our panel houses and routines and are not as engaged as we once were in sharing the Good News with those who do not know Him as we do.

The exhortation today is both restoration and outreach. Let us embrace this opportunity for the Holy Spirit to refresh and direct us.

Let us pray, "Jesus, I do love You! I desire to be reconciled with my family, I desire to be reconciled with Community, I desire to live reconciled with anyone whom I have offended or anyone who has offended me. Show me where reconciliation is needed and give me the power of Your Holy Spirit to bring about restoration. Jesus, I do love You! I desire to follow Your example and love those You love in my life. Give me courage, words, and deeds to express love to everyone I meet today. I want to follow Your example and love as You love so that Your kingdom grows through my direct actions today. Jesus, I love and trust in You! Amen."

God Bless,
David