

Short Talk

(SHT149)

Reinstated by Jesus

© Jane Hulme 2019

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



SHORT TALK: “Reinstated by Jesus”

Aim of Short talk: To encourage people that Jesus reinstated Peter as His follower after Peter had let Him down and that Jesus is willing to do the same for us too.

Use of Short talk: This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.

Main themes: Easter, Jesus, Peter, Reinstatement, Disciple

Biblical references: John 21:1-19

Lectionary: Year C – The 3rd Sunday of Easter

Props: You will need the following:

- a white alb or a white surplice or a white sheet that can be wrapped around your volunteer who will play the part of Peter.
- 3 other pieces of material in dull colours; ideally grey, black or brown. These pieces of material will be used to cover the white alb/surplice/sheet on the volunteer, and they could be sheets, curtains, large towels etc.

People needed: You will need 3 volunteers:

- A man who will play the part of Peter, with no words to say.
- A man who will play the part of Jesus, who has the words, “*Follow me*” to say in two different parts of the script. You may wish to dress up Jesus in a white robe.
- A man or woman who comes and drapes the 3 other pieces of material over Peter after each one of Peter’s denials.

.....

Let me introduce you to Peter. (*Volunteer briefed to be Peter walks forward and stands at the front next to you*)

- Peter was a fisherman in the time of Jesus; a very ordinary man.

One day he was busy washing his nets by the side of the Sea of Galilee, after a night when he had caught no fish at all, when Jesus came along.

- Because there was such a big crowd following Jesus, Jesus asked Peter if He could use His boat to teach from.

When Jesus had finished teaching, He told Peter to put down his nets in the water again.

- Suddenly so many fish were caught in the nets that Peter’s boat began to sink!

Jesus then invited Peter to follow Him. *(Enter Jesus carrying the white alb/surplice/sheet and says to Peter: "Follow me." Peter turns towards Jesus and Jesus puts the white material on him. Jesus and Peter stand facing each other a distance apart.)*

- Peter left being a fisherman and followed Jesus faithfully for over 3 years but one night everything changed.

It was the night that Jesus was arrested by the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and taken to the house of the high priest.

- Peter followed from a distance and hung about in the courtyard.
- There a servant girl said to Peter: *"You also were with Jesus of Galilee"* (Matthew 26:69)
- But Peter denied it and said that He didn't know Jesus.

(Peter turns around about 60 degrees on the spot so that he is turning away from Jesus. The 3rd volunteer comes on and wraps the first piece of dull cloth over his white robe to begin to cover it up then moves away from Peter.)

This happened again a little while later.

- Someone else said that Peter knew Jesus, but again Peter denied it.
- *(Peter turns around another 60 degrees on the spot so that he is turning further away from Jesus. The 3rd volunteer comes on and wraps the second piece of dull cloth over his white robe to continue to cover it up then moves away from Peter.)*

A little while later it happened a third time and this time Peter again swore that he didn't know Jesus.

(Peter turns around another 60 degrees on the spot so that he is standing with his back to Jesus. The 3rd volunteer comes on and wraps the third piece of dull cloth over his white robe to continue to cover it up then moves away from Peter.)

After Peter had denied knowing Jesus for the third time, a cockerel crowed, and Peter remembered that Jesus had said that this would happen.

Can you imagine how Peter must have felt that day?

- Guilty,
- Ashamed,
- Really upset,
- Disappointed with himself,
- Depressed.

Peter carried all those feelings around with him until one special day, a little while after Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

- The night before Peter had decided to go back to fishing, his old job,
- but although Peter fished all night, he caught nothing.

Early in the morning a man on the beach called out to Peter and the other fishermen and told them to let their nets down on the right side of the boat.

- Immediately many large fish were caught in the nets just like they had done once before, three years ago.
- John, one of Jesus' other friends realised that the man on the beach was Jesus.

Peter and his friends rushed to get back to the beach where Jesus was preparing breakfast for them. *(Peter turns around so that he is facing Jesus)*

I wonder what went through Peter's mind when he sat eating breakfast with Jesus?

- I wonder if he thought about the first time that he had seen the miraculous catch of fish?
- I wonder if he thought about how Jesus had called him away from fishing to following Him on that day?
- I wonder if he thought that now that he had denied knowing Jesus, Jesus wouldn't want him anymore as one of His followers?

After breakfast Jesus took Peter to one side and had a chat with him.

- Jesus didn't tell Peter off but simply asked him three questions.
- He said to Peter: *"Simon son of John do you truly love me more than these?"* (John 21:15)
- Peter replied: *"Yes Lord, you know that I love you."* (John 21:15)
(Jesus removes the 1st piece of material from Peter and throws it away)
- *"Feed my lambs"* said Jesus.

Jesus then said to Peter: *"Simon, son of John, do you truly love me?"* (John 21:16)

- Peter replied: *"Yes Lord, you know that I love you."* (John 21:16)
(Jesus removes the 2nd piece of material from Peter and throws it away)
- *"Take care of my sheep"* said Jesus.

Jesus then said to Peter: *"Simon, son of John, do you love me?"* (John 21:17)

Peter was a bit upset that Jesus had asked him whether he loved him three times but replied: *"Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."* (John 21:17)
(Jesus removes the 3rd piece of material from Peter and throws it away)

- *"Feed my sheep"* said Jesus.

Jesus then invited Peter to follow Him. *(Jesus says: "Follow me!")*

- Jesus still wanted Peter as His follower even though Peter had messed up.
- How kind of Jesus to put Peter back together again in this way; giving him three opportunities to say that he loved Jesus to replace the 3 times he had denied Him.
- Once again Peter was called into a life of service.

You know, sometimes we too can mess up in our lives, like Peter did.

- We can do, say and think things that we know are wrong, and we can be tempted to think that we have blown it;
- that Jesus will never want us to be one of His followers again.

But the wonderful truth today is that Jesus never gives up on us.

- Having called us to follow Him, Jesus is committed to us.
- When we mess up, if we allow Him to, Jesus will gently put us back together again like He did with Peter and restore us to being His follower again.
(Send your volunteers back to their seats)