



Pastor PJ Berner • May 11, 2025

Restored:
God's Perfect Plan for
Imperfect People
JOHN 21:15-17

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Discussion Questions

Community Groups meet throughout the week and play a crucial role in our response to the preaching of the word. These groups gather to discuss the following questions as we seek to apply the sermon in community with one another. Please visit compassntx.org to join a small group near you.

1. Read **John 21:15-17**. True or False: God can only use imperfect people to accomplish his perfect plan for the church. Why do you think John chose (under the Spirit's guidance) to include this final scene of Peter's restoration? Besides the fact that Peter would go on to be a significant leader in the early church, and this cleared up any doubts people would have about his qualifications, the Spirit promoted John to include this for you and me as we read it today. Why? What encouragement do you draw from this scene, and how does it motivate you, convict you, or spur you on in your current relationship with Christ?

2. Read **1 Timothy 1:15-16**. Jonathan Edwards famously described the lost as a spider dangling from a single thread of their web over the fires of hell with only God's mercy keeping them from taking that final plunge. As believers, we can be tempted to look at mercy as something we needed for salvation, but how does God's mercy still operate in your life today? How does his mercy relate to his Lordship, and what can only be described as a necessary response from us to serve him with our lives?

3. Read **2 Cor 12:9** and **1 Cor 15:10**. How should these passages reframe the way we think about our spiritual gifts to encourage more humility in us? How does this also help us to understand a passage like **1 Cor 12:14-18** and the idea that there is true and equal worth in each person's efforts as they use their gifts to serve the body of Christ?

4. Read **1 Cor 1:26-29**. Spend time in prayer thanking God for his mercy and grace and that he still restores repentant sinners today the way he did with Peter so long ago. Thank him specifically for the way he's using you to accomplish his perfect plans. If you can't see that as clearly, thank him for his sovereignty and that you can trust that he is working out that perfect plan even when we can't see how. Pray for a softness to sin and that God would make you always quick to repent. Pray that his glory would be clearly seen in how he uses you, a broken sinner, to accomplish great things for his name and his kingdom.

Recommended Reading

- *The Bruised Reed* - Richard Sibbes
- *The Doctrine of Repentance* (Puritan Paperbacks) - Thomas Watson
- *The Grace of Repentance* - Sinclair Ferguson
- *What is Repentance* (Crucial Questions Series) - R.C. Sproul



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