

HOPE FOR A FRESH START JOHN 21

Introduction - Have you ever blown it so badly, and maybe even so publicly, that you gave up any hope of being restored? Have other people had a hard time forgiving you? Have you found it even harder to feel forgiven by God? Is there a second chance?

I. THE REVELATION OF JESUS

- A. Jesus is present
• cf. *Psalm 139:1-12; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 18:20*
- B. Jesus is powerful
• cf. *Luke 1:37*
- C. Jesus is persistent

II. THE CONCERNS OF JESUS

- A. Do you love me?
• cf. *Mark 12:30; John 14:15*
- B. Will you care for my people?
- C. Will you follow me anywhere?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS JULY 21-27

Follow-throughs

Monday **Song of Songs 1-4**
The Song of Songs is a celebration of married love, but it has been used throughout the centuries as an illustration of the love between Christ and his church (cf. Ephesians 5:22-32). As you read these verses, compare the passion of this relationship to your own passion for the Lord. Ask God to help you to recapture your “first love” for Jesus.

Tuesday **Song of Songs 5-8**
As you continue to see the intimacy of this love relationship, think about the intimacy of your own relationship with Jesus. Have you let him into every aspect of your life? Are there any areas you have kept off-limits from him?

Wednesday **Colossians 3:12-21**
Here is a description of the kind of love that God longs to see within the family of believers, and within the home. How can you nourish and love the “sheep,” the fellow-believers, that God has placed around you?

Thursday **Ezekiel 34:1-31**
In these verses God rebukes the leaders of Israel, contrasting their careless shepherd with his own role as the good and just shepherd. How are you treating the people for whom God has given you responsibility?

Friday **John 10:1-30**
What does Jesus say about himself as the good shepherd? Why is he trustworthy to be followed? Ask Jesus where he wants you to follow him.

Warm-ups

Saturday **Genesis 1:1-31**
1) What is the longest day you ever experienced? What made it so long? 2) What does God create in each of the days of creation? 3) Why do you think God chose to create in six days, then rest on a seventh? 4) If God had a plan for His creation, He likely has a plan for you. What does this mean to you as you step forth to live out today?

Sunday **Galatians 4:4**
1) What is something you’re eagerly waiting for? Why do you have to wait? 2) God sent Jesus “when the time had fully come.” What do you think it was that made Jesus coming when He did so timely? 3) In what ways do you feel God had a plan for when Jesus would come the first time? 4) Do you think God has a plan for Jesus to return and, if so, how will that affect the way you live today?