

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

March 12, 2025 – Song of Songs: The Journey of Awakening Mature Love – Rendu Paras

Day 12 – Dark, But Lovely (Part 3)

In Luke 22:31-34, Jesus warned Peter he would deny Him three times. Later, in Gethsemane, Jesus acknowledged Peter's spirit was willing, but his flesh was weak. Peter's denial wasn't a sign of lack of love, but of human weakness.

Eight days after Jesus' crucifixion, Peter was found fishing. He wasn't in need of money, nor was it for recreation. Peter was resigning from his role as an apostle and returning to his old fishing job. Why would he do that? If he could not stay faithful to Jesus before the pressure of a young servant girl (the one who asked if he was a follower of Jesus), then how would he stay faithful for a lifetime? His heart was wounded by failure, and he doubted his ability to be faithful. Like Peter, when we fail, it can feel easier to shrink back from God. We lower our vision, settling for a "second-class" relationship with God to avoid the pain of failure.

But Jesus doesn't condemn Peter. He asks him three times, "Do you love me?" Not because Jesus doesn't know, but because He wants Peter to know. He wants to remind Peter, and us, that our love is real even in our failure. Jesus restores Peter's confidence and removes his shame.

How will you respond when you face your own weaknesses and mistakes?

A life of shame leads to a life of sin. The Lord doesn't want us to resign ourselves to a second class status. God wants to break off any shame and restore your dignity. You are fully known and fully loved. Let that truth transform your heart, making you confident and tenacious in love. There is nothing more powerful than someone who knows that they are loved. God is raising up a Bride who is unashamed, full of dignity and confident in love.