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ENLARGE

STRETCH

LENGTHEN

STRENGTHEN

ISAIAH 54:2

## Transformative Fires: Healing Past Mistakes with Jesus

Read John 21

Listen to the Message 'Transformative Fires: Healing Past Mistakes with Jesus' (7<sup>th</sup> April 2024) at [www.elim.family/media](http://www.elim.family/media)

In this sermon, the Ps. Jim reflects on the power of memories tied to places and smells, both positive and negative. Using the example of Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples, the sermon delves into a pivotal moment in Peter's life: his denial of Jesus by a fire. Despite his initial bravado and determination not to betray Jesus, Peter ultimately succumbs to fear and denies knowing him three times, leading to immense shame and guilt.

The sermon highlights how Jesus later confronts Peter about his betrayal, symbolically addressing the elephant in the room. Through a poignant exchange by the seashore, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him, mirroring Peter's three denials. This confrontation allows Peter to confront his past mistakes, learn from them, and ultimately move forward, as Jesus reaffirms his trust in Peter by entrusting him with leadership responsibilities.

The sermon concludes with a call to action for us to confront our own regrets and mistakes, emphasizing the importance of owning up to them, learning from them, and ultimately moving on. Just as Jesus offered Peter a path to redemption and restoration, the Ps. Jim encourages listeners to seek forgiveness and embrace a future free from the burdens of shame and regret, knowing that Jesus is always waiting with open arms.

### Questions for reflection:

#### Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Can you recall a specific memory tied to a particular place or smell that evokes strong emotions for you? How does it make you feel?
2. Reflect on a time when you experienced regret or shame over a past mistake. How did it affect you emotionally and mentally?
3. In what ways do you relate to Peter's denial of Jesus, either in your actions or in moments of doubt or fear?
4. Have you ever avoided confronting past mistakes or regrets? What do you think prevented you from facing them?

5. What steps can you take to own up to past mistakes, learn from them, and move forward in your life and relationship with Jesus?
6. Reflect on the concept of shame and its impact on your life. How might owning up to mistakes and seeking forgiveness alleviate feelings of shame?

**Group Reflection Questions:**

7. Share a memory tied to a specific place or smell that holds significant meaning for you. How does this memory shape your identity or emotions?
8. Discuss instances where members of the group have experienced regret or shame over past actions. How did they navigate these feelings, and what support did they receive?
9. In what ways do you see parallels between Peter's denial of Jesus and moments of doubt or denial in your own faith journey?
10. Reflect on Jesus' approach to Peter's denial. How does this interaction demonstrate Jesus' character and his stance on forgiveness and redemption?
11. How can the group support one another in owning up to past mistakes, learning from them, and moving forward with grace and forgiveness?
12. Share personal experiences of confronting shame or regret. What strategies have been helpful in overcoming these feelings and embracing healing and restoration?
13. As a group, discuss the role of vulnerability and honesty in facing past mistakes and seeking redemption. How can you create a safe space for sharing and growth within the group?

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal saviour and you would like to move from the margins to having a relationship with Him. Please speak to one of the pastors or leadership team, we would love to pray with you. Alternatively, go to [www.elim.family/ihavedecided](http://www.elim.family/ihavedecided) to find out more about giving your life to Jesus.