

Reconnecting with the Resurrected Christ – Coming Back After Compromise

John 21:1-19

The Spiraling Down of Compromise. —We do things we that we will regret.

 Matthew 26:31–35 (NIV) “...Jesus told them, “This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”³² But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”³³ Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”³⁴ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”³⁵ But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.”

The Descent of Peter’s Compromise:

1. Self-promotion: Peter compromised to get in a door. (John 18:15–17)
2. Self-gratification: Peter compromised to feel good. (John 18:18, 25)
3. Self-preservation: Peter compromised to stay safe. (John 18:26–27)

 Luke 22:61–62 (NIV) “The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.”⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.”

The Backward Slide of Compromise. —We settle for less than God’s best.

 John 21:3 (NIV) “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.”

 John 21:4–6 (NIV) “Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. ⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.”

 John 21:7-8 (NIV) “Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord! As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.”

The Forward Stride after Compromise. —We repent and rededicate ourselves.

 John 21:9–14 (NIV) “When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹ Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.”

 John 21:15–19 (NIV) “When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” ¹⁷ The third time He said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, “Follow me!””

Digging Deeper Do you know Jesus personally? Would you consider yourself a Christ-follower? If you do follow Christ, in what ways have you denied knowing Him? Have you ever heard God’s voice? What does He sound like? How does it

 make you feel to know that Jesus still calls you friend, even after you’ve messed up? Are you doing what God has called you to do? Do you need to give your life to Christ for the first time, today? Do you need to rededicate your life to Christ? God loves a comeback—will you come back to Him today?