



## Peters Green News Sheet Issue No: 9

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### What happened to Simon Peter? John 21: 15 - 19

Have you ever felt let down by others?

Have you ever felt you had let others down?

We're human, and so, 'Yes, we have' from both points of view.

Before His arrest Jesus told the disciples that they would all desert Him. Peter as brash as ever stated that He never would – the others all said the same. Jesus exclaimed that not only would he run away with the rest but he would also deny he knew Jesus three times. Of course, Peter denied this as well.

After Jesus' arrest, He was taken to the High Priests house. Even though He initially ran with the rest, Peter bravely followed the procession to the place where Jesus was, as did John, although Peter went much closer. He was recognised and accused of being with Jesus – he denied this. Then did so twice more as his courage failed him. Yet Peter was no coward – he had gone right into the 'lion's den' so to speak – the courtyard of the High Priest's house. He could have been arrested and condemned at any time.

I wonder how Jesus felt as He was certainly aware of this – let down by the very man who was adamant that he would not run away or deny Him? More, that if necessary he would die with Him.

A terrible thing if that was the end of the story: but it was not!

After His Resurrection, when Jesus had cooked a meal for the disciples on the sea shore, He gave Peter the opportunity to redeem himself. He took Peter to one side and asked him if he loved Him. Peter's response was that of course he did and got the response 'Feed my lambs'. Jesus asked him again if he loved Him and Peter replied in the affirmative. Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep'. Jesus then asked him a third time – Peter was offended and said, 'Yes, Lord, You know all things, You know that I love You!' Jesus again replied, 'Feed my sheep'.

Peter had denied Jesus three times, so Jesus gave him a threefold opportunity to put things right. How gracious was that. No sulking as some people may have done but a straightforward means of restitution.

Peter went on from there to be effectively the disciples' leader and ultimately to be martyred himself.

Sometimes, I wonder if we all are able to conduct ourselves as Jesus did and forgive and forget. We may remember in the prayer that Jesus had previously taught His disciples, one of the statements was 'Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors' (Matthew 6: 12). You see we cannot expect forgiveness from God unless we also forgive those who let us down or offend us. Further, the whole point of Jesus allowing Himself to be crucified was so that we are placed in a position to be forgiven if we trust Jesus as our Saviour. So, if He forgives us our offences that are many, then how much more should we forgive others who offend us.

The song here by Graham Kendrick seemed as though it could have been written for Peter and the disciples as much as for us.

All I once held dear, built my life upon  
All this world reveres and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now compared to this

Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You  
There is no greater thing  
You're my all, You're the best  
You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love You Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know You more  
To be found in You and know as Yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All surpassing gift of righteousness

Oh to know the power of Your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like You in Your death, my Lord  
So with You to live and never die

Christian blessings

Roger

