

THREE GLANCES OF CHRIST

Speaker: Resource

Time: Sunday Evening Devotion, approximately 11:30 p.m.

Length: 15 minutes

Purpose:

During this talk, focus on Peter's joy, overflowing into love and service, and the resurrected Christ as our reason for living. This talk also provides an initial transition from RISE DAY to GO DAY.

Outline: Begin Your Talk Here

Introduction:

Following the resurrection of our Lord, Peter and Jesus made eye contact at least three times:

1. First, in the Upper Room, Jesus appeared to all the disciples on Easter evening.
2. Second, while Peter was fishing on Lake Galilee sometime later.
3. Third, a few minutes later, on the beach, when Jesus said to Peter, "Feed My lambs."

Each time Jesus and Peter met, something happened to Peter. Each time, Peter grew in faith and love. As we think about each interaction, we ask ourselves, "What happens inside me when Jesus looks into my soul and calls me to serve Him?" Let's look at these "glances" of Christ:

I. The First Glance

Review a few details from John 20:19–21 in your own words.

- A. Think about how the disciples felt. Christ, their leader, had just died, and now, He is back with them. How would you feel? The followers of Jesus needed the peace of the Lord at this time—just as the peace of the Lord is important to us. Jesus' message is simple and clear: "Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, (*then list several names of TECites*), peace be with you. Yes, it is I; touch My scars and see; I'm not dead but alive. As the Father sent Me to forgive the world, so send I you."
- B. What was Peter's response? What did he say? What was going on in his mind? Did he touch Jesus to know for sure that it was Him—and then cringe in the corner because he, Peter, had doubted the power of the very Son of God? Maybe he said something like this: "My guilt has shut my mouth, Lord, but I'll never deny You again. In spite of my denial, You are willing to forgive me."
- C. How are we like Peter? (*Consider sharing a personal example of reconciliation or forgiveness.*)

II. The Second Glance

Review a few details from John 21:2–7 in your own words.

- A. What was Jesus thinking when He saw the disciples in the boat? Perhaps it was something like this: "Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, you don't see Me standing here, do you? I did not rise from the dead so that you could go back to your routine way of life as if nothing happened. I called you to

be fishers of men, not fish. *(Spoken a little louder to dramatize Jesus calling to the disciples.)* Hey! Drop your nets on the other side, and you'll get a glimpse of the work I have for you."

- B. What were Peter's thoughts when Jesus called to them? At first, Peter didn't get the connection. But when John recognized Jesus and clued Peter in, Peter's reaction was instant. *(Again, louder to dramatize Peter calling to Jesus.)* "Don't leave us again, Jesus. Wait! Let me fall at Your feet and adore You. Let me stand at Your side no matter who sees us. Let me shout to the world that You are my risen Lord and my God. Jesus, let me show You my love." *(Share a time when God was using something in your life to call you to serve Him.)*

III. The Third Glance

Review a few details from John 21:15–19 in your own words.

- A. What did Jesus' words mean? Perhaps He was saying, "Peter, all is past—the incident with the servant's ear, the three denials in the courtyard, the disbelief on Easter morning. All is past; I forgive you; I love you. I love you so much that I have great work for you. It won't be easy, and it will cost you very much; but My love for you will carry you through."
- B. What did Peter's response mean? Perhaps he was thinking, "Why me, Lord? Of course, I love You. But I've failed You. What if I fail again? Why me? You know I love You, Lord; but You are risen from the dead. What do you need from me? Yes, Jesus; I hear You. You are the Risen One, not I. You are the Son of God, not I. Yes, Jesus, You are the Master and I the servant. Yes, Jesus, I love You. Ask of me whatever You will. I can think of no greater joy than to serve You in love."
- C. How do we, Jesus' disciples, respond? *(Share words of encouragement about God's power to love us and open opportunities to serve Him in many ways.)*

Conclusion:

How will we make the most of our less-than-one-day together here at TEC? How will we respond tomorrow as Jesus calls us to go back home, back to school and work, to "feed" others?

Because Jesus has forgiven our denials just as He forgave Peter's, we have only one response: "Yes, Lord; here am I, send me, send me."

No discussion question follows this talk.