**2022 06 26 Restoration after Failure.**

**John 21:1-15. 1 Tim 1:12-17. Eph 2:1-10. 1 Jn 4:7-21.**

 There is a distance between forgiveness and restoration, and between a relationship before broken and after reconciliation. The honesty of the reconciliation can make the relationship bigger or superficial, of the emotions and soul or only in the conscience mind and there is no growth in the love and unity in Jesus.

Before we came to Eden I was an elder at a church where we lived, as was another man about the same age. I needed to talk to someone about an issue that I was having – not unusual – he listened and then said “I thought more of you Allan”. End of conversation and the friendship -became formal. A month ago, he died and the sadness that I felt of the lost opportunity – I will catch up with him in heaven – no barriers there.

The morning the risen Jesus invited some of his friends to breakfast, can we feel the coolness that floats in just before dawn, the sound of the waves and night birds heading back to their safe day place and a man, walking out onto the shore line, he had searched for kindling wood and branches and squatted down, arranging the kindling, used normal human skill to start the fire - gently flew it into life and looked out across the mist of the lake and waited.

I wonder if we can feel this in our spirit – the Presence of Gods Spirit bring Jesus to us – and waiting for us to come into His peace – to have breakfast.

‘Restoration’ – Do we have in our spirit and emotions the words “Jesus became sin for me that I might become the rightness of God in Him”. This the soul peace that brings us restoration in relationship with God. That morning, some mornings after the total agony of the cross, taking into himself the vileness of humanity and defeating death, Jesus was taking another step - - in reconciliation with the friends who had deserted him – nothing grand - so simple and ordinary – having breakfast. Men’s breakfast at the church - a building of familiarity and understanding of each other.

These men who were to carry the message of freedom to the world were coming back into shore and saw the fire, a man standing near it, looking out to them and John recognised in his spirit – “it is the Lord”. Have we ever felt that feeling of someone being there, or a fleeting glance of someone that they were familiar? John knew and our spirits also know Gods Presence. We also know when we are distant and have moved away from Gods Presence.

In **restoration of our God intended relationship as His family, His sons and daughters *honesty with self and God* is in my life is the essential starting place both for salvation and cleansing and ongoing relationships with God. It also applies to our restoration and building of relationships with other people. Now I am not saying that we tell the world our inmost feelings and thoughts but that what we say is straight. E.g., “yes I felt upset when …” rather than “no, all is ok – no need to think pr talk about that”.**

**Look at the words in 1 Timothy 1:12-17.**

**13**Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. **12**I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. **14**The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **Reconciliation based on honest realisation of who he, Paul was, and the reality of Jesus. IT is not a once only occurrence but a moment-by-moment openness to stay close and acknowledgements of the choice we made that has caused the loss. God has not strayed we choose our path.**

**15**Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. **16**But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.  **This is the thing that amazes me about our God – patience. How could God put up with me. Such love is beyond me, Gods love is total. “We love God because God first loved us.” “When we wanted nothing to do with God – God sent His only beloved Son - Son of His own essential substance,[[1]](#footnote-1) to live our lives and bring us into His eternal family.  and our response – could we subdue this response – do we want to – are we afraid7**Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

# The thing with our Lord Jesus is that he always knows that we are human – he has walked this world, experienced any temptation that we can face[[2]](#footnote-2)– loneliness, happiness, physical desires – all of it and always knew the difference between what is a gift of God and what is a corruption of it.[[3]](#footnote-3)

# We need never fear that no one else knows the inner working of us – honesty in God is a good place to live.

# In our reconciliation with God, we are in Jesus and Jesus is in God – a totally secure place to be.[[4]](#footnote-4)

God, who is rich in mercy because of his great love for us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—***8****For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—****9****not by works, so that no one can boast.****10****For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.[[5]](#footnote-5)*

Restoration is more than forgiving, it is growing the relationship, it is understanding and honesty it is not holding a grudge it is vulnerability and it takes time.

The record of Paul, Barnabas and young Mark setting out on a journey to tell the good news of Jesus and when they came to a dangerous section of the road Mark left them - when the next journey came Paul would not trust Mark enough to take him with them yet Barnabas insisted and so they split into two groups. Paul wanted nothing to do with Mark – there was no restoration.[[6]](#footnote-6) *Yet at the end of his life it was Mark that he wanted with him, Mark that he sent for – over the years restoration had come.*

So – honestly – where is our journey in restoration with God and each other?

What are our choices and hearts intent?

“Today s the day of salvation”.[[7]](#footnote-7)

1. Hebrews 1:3 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Hebrew 4:15 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The 40 days of temptation in the desert. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. John 14:9-14 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ephesians 2:1-10 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. 2 Timothy 4:11 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 2 Corinthians 6:2. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)