

Life Group Notes

Sunday 24th April 2022

Speaker: Richard Walker

Title: ReCalled

Passage: Various

Recalls happen to products when the company realises they are faulty. They call them back in to be replaced or repaired. Recalls can also happen to people who get put back into service. After the resurrection, Jesus does both these definitions to his disciples.

- In Matthew Jesus **reveals** himself to his disciples.
- In Mark, Jesus **rebukes** his disciples.
- In Luke, Jesus **reassures** his disciples.
- In John, Jesus **recommissions** his disciples. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit over all of them.

But before we're done, there's an interesting detail worth exploring. In **Luke 24** Jesus tells the disciples to remain in Jerusalem, but in **John 21**, six or seven of them, including Jesus' inner circle, Peter James and John, have clearly left Jerusalem and gone 75 miles north to fish in the Sea of Galilee. Are they rebelling against Jesus' direct command? Jesus doesn't rebuke them, either because they haven't done anything wrong, or because he realises that right now they need help.

Jesus' first and last words to Peter in the gospels were "Follow me." Between those two utterances was a journey of discipleship; from his original call, to growth in knowledge and miracle working power. But then crisis hits. His experience of ministry, miracles and of Jesus is not enough to overcome his fear of the mob and the state when they come to arrest Jesus. Even though Jesus appears to them after the resurrection, Peter still seems to disqualify himself from further involvement until Jesus restores him by the Sea of Galilee.

We too can have crises like Peter did, even if they are not the same as Peter's.

- Sin – whether we are the victim or the perpetrator. Sometimes, just living in a broken world brings unexpected crisis.
- My assessment of myself is proven wrong.
- My trust of others is proven misplaced.
- When I try really hard for God and it fails or goes nowhere.
- When I realise the world is bigger than my little Christian bubble.

When we hit a crisis, where do we go?

1. Prioritise honesty / take stock / recovery – Give yourself time.
2. Seek reconciliation / make peace where necessary / possible. With others, God, yourself and the circumstances.
3. Trust and obey Jesus' call - **Acts 1:14**: *They all joined together constantly in prayer.* When you read the Bible, God's words sit in you. When you pray, God's words live in you. We may not have all the answers, but we choose to trust and obey God in the midst of our uncertainty, and trust that we will figure it out / find peace on the way.
4. Be filled with the Spirit - **Acts 2:1-2**: *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.* When we put ourselves in the way of God and God shows up, even if we aren't all sorted, amazing things happen.

Questions:

1. What from today's sermon was new for you?
2. What do you make of the idea that Jesus rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith to believe what he and the witnesses said, not because they weren't strong enough to defend him from attack?
3. In what ways is Peter's story similar to or different from your own story?
4. Have you been through or are you going through one of the crises mentioned above? Which of the four stages are you at? How, if at all, can others help?

5. Has someone you know, been through one of the crises mentioned above? Which of the four stages are they at? How can you support/pray for them?