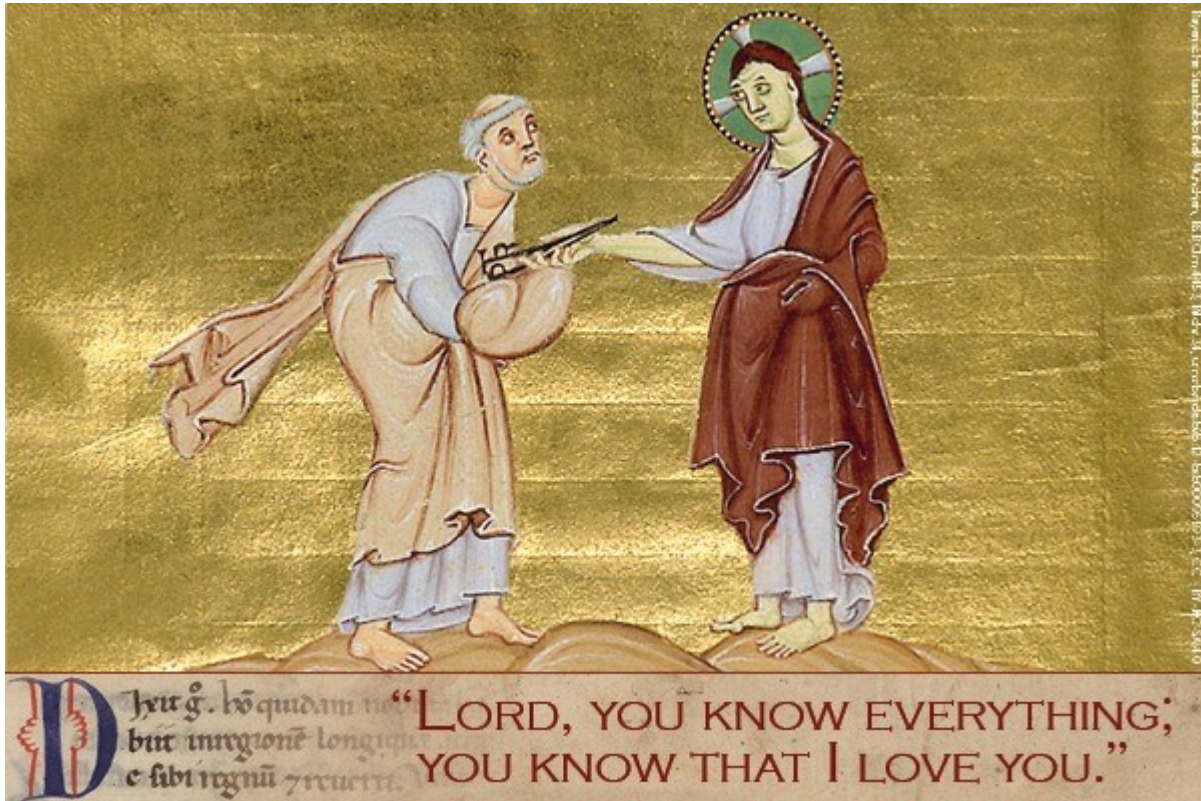


# Bringing it Home For Sunday, May 4, 2025

By Allison de Kanel



Have you ever done something foolish, or even wrong, and wished it never happened? Wished you could just erase it like a pencil mark?

I think most of us feel that way sometimes. If only I never did that, if only I never said that!

But we can't undo the past.

Jesus's friend Peter must have felt like that. When Jesus was arrested, Peter followed along to see what would happen to him. But some people could tell by his accent where he was from. They asked if he was with Jesus. They asked him three times, and each time Peter said he didn't know Jesus.

And then he went out and cried. He couldn't believe what he had done. If only he could undo it!

In today's Bible story, Jesus met his friends by the seashore. This was after Jesus's resurrection. Jesus cooked some fish for breakfast, and it must have seemed like old times.

Then Jesus privately asked Peter a question: Do you love me? Of course Peter said he did. Then Jesus asked him the same question again. And then again.

Each time, Peter said he loved Jesus. But he didn't understand why Jesus asked him the same question three times.

Maybe you can figure it out. Why do you think Jesus did that?

## John 21:1-19

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" Peter said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."