

Transformation of Peter

By Ron Hafer

Verhoeven:

We are overflowing. We've been rested. Some have been on ministry trips and other trips and we are rested and ready to go again. I know that Jesus withdrew to be renewed so my wish is that you have been renewed while you've been away this week or even if you've been here. I'm Kathy Verhoeven the chaplain assistant and I am here to introduce Ron Hafer this morning and our speaker. But before we do that let's just go to the Lord in prayer, thank Him for this time.

Dear gracious heavenly father Lord God of this universe. Thank you that you allow us to bow before your Holy Throne of praise. We give you honor and glory we lift your name up on high. Thank you that this season is all about you and this life is all about you. Lord God you've called us to be a holy priesthood and as we bow before you we offer our sacrifices of praise and our sacrifices of our lives as well. Lord God we love you. We pray that as you've called us to be priests to you that we would continually everyday have a more holy life. So I pray that now as we go throughout this day that everything we say and do will give glory to you. Father God right now we ask that you would rest your spirit upon Ron Hafer that you would bless him for all his faithful years of service here at Biola. Thank you that you have anointed him and you have called him to this place for such a time as this. We pray that you would prepare our hearts right now to hear your words of truth that would change our lives just for today and eternity in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Well Ron Hafer has been serving here since he was 27. He became the chaplain here and he's been faithful all these years and enthusiastic all these years so let's give him an enthusiastic welcome as we open to John 21

[Applause]

Hafer:

- again. I was terrified. And then I came back. Following a brief stint as the world's greatest youth pastor. It didn't happen and came back in 1966 and we had five chapels a week. It felt like five a day. Half an hour. Nobody wanted to do it. So I got all those opportunities to preach. Not really people weren't really knocking the door down to hear me but nobody else wanted to and I thought I'll do it I'll do it. And and I've been reflecting on these 38 years at Biola. And I thought how interesting that I have an opportunity to speak now we've got all these [inaudible] all these great preachers.

And so here I am that the chaplain at this school where everybody and his bird is a great preacher you know. And I'm waiting my turn you know. And I sat over there praying and I'm ready to go. My biggest problem is not deciding what to say but when to shut up and stop and. And I sat there terrified isn't the word but a little bit frightened and nervous. Still is there. And when the guys that I disciple basically they kind of disciple me on Thursday mornings when they

when they ask me just before spring break: At what point do you get to the place where before a major ministry you're no longer a nervous or frightened or petrified. Now I said I don't know but hasn't happened to me yet. But that's all right because when we are weak then he is strong.

Well that's the message you can - No never mind [audience laughter].

John chapter twenty one is a great chapter. You will turn to it and you will say I know that chapter but that's all right because heaven on earth will pass away. This word will never pass away. I've preached this message more than once and yet I still am getting stuff that's brand new and fresh to me. Let me give you a great outline. It's great because I stole it. OK. And I only plagiarize from the best.

A guy called me a couple months ago and he said hey we would like you to do a camp for us. And I said well yeah when is it. He told me. I said Well it looks pretty good. He said Yeah. He said We tried. John MacArthur and then we tried Chuck Swindoll and they couldn't do it. And we thought let's try Hafer. I said Well yeah you struck it rich because I use their stuff all the time [audience laughter]. And I did the camp.

John chapter twenty one dogs barking two thousand pound stone rolled away not to let Jesus out folks because he rose from the dead to his own power. But to let people in get scared to death by the Angels taking turns that drew tomb duty. Well some were very overt sitting on the stone saying He is risen has risen and the ladies I don't know all their names but I know several. They were Mary and Mary and Mary and Martha and her. So they run down the hill another group comes up the hill. This one likes a little spooky deal. She waits until they get into the tomb then leans over their shoulders and says why seek yee the living among the dead.

And [yelp] the same effect. They're running all over the Judean Hills by John Chapter 21. He has had, this is his third appearance. He will have had ten separate appearances to individuals and small groups. And we are told he appeared to over five hundred at one time. We don't know where they were but I'd have loved being in that group you know. And this is now several days later. I think this is a I think it's a fantastic transition turning point in the Life of Simon Peter.

Those of you who have studied under these great Bible teaches that we have here. You get to the end of John chapter twenty and it really looks like a conclusion. In fact Yeah it looks like John is thinking that's it. I got twenty chapters in me. That's it. And many other signs and miracles did Jesus that are not recorded in this book yada yada. And "go with God" puts down his pen and it's almost as though the Holy Spirit says [inaudible] one bro pick it up again. I have one more chapter I want, I want to paint a brief picture of my people in transition.

People who've walked and talked with Jesus who understand what it's like to have seen the resurrected Christ. People who have been commissioned to go into all the world and that their power isn't their own. But I particularly want to focus on a guy named Simon Peter - open mouth insert foot. Do something if it's wrong. Say something even if it doesn't fit - Simon Peter. That most of us identify with and Peter probably sweat through this chapter. We know he did but he's so thankful that God included it because it's one of the most fantastic transition moments I believe in his whole life. I think John twenty one and I couldn't prove this from any of the commentaries I read but I feel it anyway that it was a major turning point in the life of Simon Peter. You can decide for yourself. Pay your nickel and take your choice allow the spirit of God to speak to your heart. So we're going to be talking about let me give you the great outline that I stole. OK.

Basically I threw in a little bit of it OK. Jesus is looking for then and now a work compelled by love. And the reason I like it it's kind of literated. Then a way directed by Christ. If our work is not motivated and detonated and compelled by our love for Jesus Christ then the way we go is a lot different. We're compelled by love a way directed by Christ as opposed to a way directed by relatives, by well-meaning friends, by admission counselors and all of them are good that a way directed by Christ specifically and then a will content to follow. Work compelled by love, way directed by Christ and a will contract content to follow. My files are full of stories and illustrations of men and women and young people in transitions in their life where God the Spirit just did his work and Kaboom! The life changed.

My life was drastically changed when back in my youth now [inaudible] I'm sixty six I'm 66 years old. I've been here for thirty eight years. I didn't see Biola the founded. I wasn't there when our a story came from Moody. I've only been here thirty eight years. But in those years I've watched phenomenal transitions - many of them in my own life. Major change in my life was when I was 12 [laughter]. I barely remember, you know I have pictures. You know I have a picture Patsy Warburton she was my girl. She was the one that was closest to my size [audience laughter]. She was about six inches taller but I wore my engineer boots and comb my hair up. We were close so we were close. It was during my [yelp] Junior High years I like to say this about junior highers [yelp]. God bless them. Who else will? He knows. Amen. We remember. We remember.

I was 12. Patsy was 12. We were sitting in the church balcony and I was a little pagan. You say Why were you in the church balcony? Because Patsy was a sweet Christian girl who shot me down period. But I could come to church with her and two nights a month they had films on Sunday night so we would sit in the balcony and have fellowship together. Right. So there I was little pagan up in the balcony and my mom and dad. This was an era where pagans went to church. Now pagans just wake up and say it's Sunday. I'm a Pagan I'm not going to church. But back then they wanted to look good.

So my dad who was the town alcoholic - that's not my statement, that's his - totally out of control but in control enough [drinking water] remember what an optimist is someone who thinks when the water is gone the message is over. Wrong wrong [audience laughter].

So my dad could go to work and drink and could be on softball team and could drink and pound guys after work at the at the Eagle's Nest. No. At the local bar. So my dad was this actually the town alcoholic who was one of the nicest alcoholics I've ever known. But his life was out of control. He and my mom would come on Sunday night to this church. They always went to church. But this particular night evangelist from Enid Oklahoma. Billy Jay [inaudible]. He was from Texas and he'd yell and he would name sin. I think I'll name a few. No. And every year all the sins that he named were my dad's. And at the end of his message he invited - This is before Billy Graham. Billy Graham was born. But before Billy Graham Crusade. So we were unused to - especially as little pagans - a guy asking people, telling, being told that you were a sinner, your sin nailed Jesus to the cross and then asking all the sinners to admit it and walk forward stand in front of everybody and say Yeah that was my sin. I'm the guy. I thought well nobody is gonna do that.

My dad this particular night when I was twelve. The town alcoholic said to my mom let's let's go down there and my mom said "I'm not going down there that will implicate me". He said Just come stand with me. She said I'm not going down there. So two people responded this night. My dad walked what we'd say in our church went forward went forward. Stood in front of all those

people admitting that he was a sinner. And the other person who responded was my mom who got up and walked out of the church. She was not, she didn't want to be associated with that sinner. My dad stood down there. Everybody in town knew that it was my dad. He had pounded half the men and the preacher said "Jay Hafer why have you come?". He was broken in his spirit could not even speak preacher said are you here to admit you're a sinner. My dad nodded and five hundred other heads [audience laughter]. Yeah yeah well. Yeah. Yeah. Whoa whoa. Major sin.

Want to invite Jesus Christ in your life? Admitting that he died Jesus is buried and rose again? Yeah. And I thought Well there's my dad first time he's been speechless. [The pastor] prayed for my dad took him into the side room which we call it was called counselling room but my brother and I called it "The Room". My brother said a lot of people had gone in there. Many have never come out. I loved him in that room an hour later. I mean here the guy who counseled My dad knew my dad's life, everybody knew his life I'd loved to have been in there and heard the counselling.

All I know is we're home an hour later. My mom is throwing pots pans around getting food ready because that's what we did after. And she's just telling us Dad's embarrassing and my dad is humiliating her the whole family. And you boys just go on to bed. We weren't about to because we figured there was a major rumble coming. Dad got home an hour later. And then he kicked

open the door and you say wasn't it stuck No we're just we're just Okies you know but duh, Yaahhh, you know [audience laughter].

You know. Yeah they came in and you know most of you would say major time God is taking over your life. Most of you would say "Oh praise God I've been born again I'm placed in the body washed in the blood". My dad said "By, *bleep* me I've gotten religion!" [audience laughter]. Well my mom says Yeah well and so there's a little altercation that took place. My dad was so and we were thought that we thought he might have sucked the cork a little on the way home. He walked right over to my mom - we just saw all kinds of things in this family. My dad laughed, grabbed her arms which was good try to trap them because she had a pan and she had to pry popped him with it you know and while she's yelling at him he just bend her halfway over kissed her right smack on the mouth. We thought - my brother yelled "Religion has brought sex to the kitchen!" [audience laughter]

Which we thought it was incredibly funny but Dad didn't and mom didn't. Then they said Go on boys. Then we went to bed because our bedroom was under theirs and we asked for a couple of other hours my dad laughing he was out of control with joy. The town Pagan said "I'll stop cussing smoking and drinking!" The amazing thing is that he stopped drinking overnight. His cussing took a little longer and younger son worked on it for a long time. And if I were to go from preaching to meddling I'd say some of us could still work on it here but I won't so I'll just keep moving. And then the cigarettes went after about three years, cigars after about five. But the

guy had saved. Unbelievable! And his wife got saved and his kids. So here I am standing here a hundred years later [audience laughter] telling you that God save centers of whom I am chief and you are right on my heels.

So meanwhile back to John chapter 21 transition time [audience laughter]. You know at Talbot they say if you're going to tell a story make the transition - that's hard! [audience laughter] But back to the Bible. Major transitions, I did that. That'll be on the tape.

Jesus says to Thomas and the others just be prepared. Be ready. It's right after the resurrection. We don't know where Jesus is. The speed readers do. But they didn't know where he was. I don't know if it was not of faith that they decided to go fishing but John writing years later said all these local yokels were gathered Jesus appeared. Here's what happened. Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel from Cain in Galilee, sons of Zebedee - that's James and John, the compassion boys I call them. Remember they went out to preach and teach that people didn't believe and they came and said Lord could we pray fire from heaven to roast them? Well I love these guys and the two other disciples were here. I am going out to fish! said Simon Peter. They said no Peter, don't go fishing. Let's go soul-winning. Let's have a Bible study and let's have James and John play their hot zither and and gather a crowd. And scholars are in disagreement. I don't know.

I don't know if this was the best they could do. But they did. They resorted to what they knew: We're going to go out fishing. So in the booming diction of the King James it says they fished all night and they caught no fishes out in the deep blue sea. So they're all night these professional fishermen and they are doing what they're good at in the flesh and Jesus - now in the original manuscripts and oh I just picture this. My professors at Talbot said "stay with this stuff on the page" but I picture Jesus saying to the fish in the sea go to the northern side and stay there till I say Now! The little stupid fish can follow directions you know.

So they fish all night and they caught no fishes in the deep blue sea. It got to be morning time. They are miffed, ticked. They're upset, really angry at themselves and probably the fish and thinking what's the use. And I've often thought - I did a study on it during my time at Talbot. My professor said at Talbot admit you went to Talbot but don't brag about it. OK. I did a study on the guys in the water before and after Jesus called them. You know most of the time they were not catching fish or they were scared to death or they were about to die. It's a good thing he called him to preach. They were, their lives were in danger for most of the time.

Well this night was just uneventful. Got to be morning Jesus appears to them on the shore. They didn't know it was Jesus. We're told later when they saw him. No one said "Yo is that you?" So he looked he looked a little different. Luke 24 he walked with Cleopus - none of us would name our kids that - and probably Luke and they. And they didn't recognize him after the resurrection. Ask Kelly and Thomas and birding and some of these great scholars why. I have my opinion but

this is the last time I get to preach this semester so we're moving on. So they so they look. They don't know it's Jesus.

Hey. So this voice from the shore "Yo, dudes!", Hafer's translation, "haven't got anything have you!" One translation says Have you caught any fish? But I like the one that says haven't caught anything have you. Haha. You know like in your own energy in your own flesh. And I've been here I've been in the ministry for a long time haven't memorized a lot of this Bible I'm sorry that I have memorized their answer they said "no!" I like it, I've got that.

Oh yeah. "No!" Yeah. Did you know there could have been Johns and many other things are said that are not recorded so you don't know what the hell did this yokel on the shore. They don't know it's Jesus this total stranger says well you guys thought on the other side. You think they've thrown that net they've thrown that net back then is swinging in the air. They thought it would get the skinny minnow you know so they just throw in Jesus says to the fish "now" and I know exactly how many fish hit that net. And so that every guy in that boat. Hundred and fifty three big fat fast the baddest fish in the Sea of Galilee and they hit that net the boat almost capsized.

John the disciple whom Jesus love said "It's Jesus. That's the work of Jesus" Peter, he stripped down to his uh, I was going to say speeddos [laughter] to his uh, to his working trunks puts on his coat and dives in the water way to go Peter. Way to go. That's it. John says leaving us to haul

in the fish. How many fish? Hundred and fifty three big fat fast ones my professors at Talbot said do a study on the individual connections of Jesus in all four of the Gospels and you get one hundred and fifty three individuals and you know what I never did that so that would be a good assignment for you.

So Peter John says leaving us to row the boat to shore. Thank you very much Peter. Well what was it was Jesus and Peter doing on the shore. You know what, I don't know. I don't know if as a high five or a major Israeli hug because Peter still has this guilt that he didn't come through valiantly when he had the opportunity. All I know is when the boat got there while Jesus has his fire and his fish. Where did Jesus get his fire and his fish? Well scripture doesn't tell but I just think he went fire! fish! dah dah! And it's coals. No no that's too high cold. Yeah. Yeah. That's good right. Right. You guys bring some years you got any? One hundred fifty three because they counted them. They thought there were no fish alive in the sea. Peter went over jumped in the boat look out and he wrestled them to shore. It's all I have to illustrate with. Picture Peter. Okay. And he gets the fish. They set on. John says no one - the old trick King James says no one dares ask him "Are you, Are you really Jesus? See he had that different look about this resurrection look".

By the way not one commentator agrees with me. All of my profs at Talbot think it's heresy but I think at the resurrection Jesus I know that now that he's in his glorified body. I know he was the Godman the hype of study. I did a paper on it and tub I know all that stuff. But for eternity past

up until the crucifixion of Christ that's all he knew in his mind and all of that is past. Don't tell me Jesus wasn't really rejoicing thing and that's done. I've saved these people. Now I'm going to put it. So there was a whole new enthusiasm in the life of Christ. So they sat. John says no one said please pass the salt. Did anybody bring the mayo. Oh yeah. Oh whatever. They just kind of a quiet breakfast then. Jesus has his conversation that most of you know and could preach. But it's my turn. So we'll look on that for the next few minutes.

Actually, we'll look for the next seven minutes. But at Talbot they said throughout few minutes it brings false hope and all kinds of excitement. So here we go. They finish their breakfast which I've watched several of you do while I've been preaching here the last few minutes. When they had finished eating. Jesus said Simon Peter Simon. Simon shifting sand - vasclater. That's what it means. Peter, Petros, the rock. Which would you prefer. Right. Simon. Peter. Oh call me Peter, the rock. Simon said to John do you love me more than these? I should have taken more than my three years Greek at Biola and the little that I took at Talbot. Most of you have a footnote that explains this conversation but don't look beyond the conversation and the meaning of Greek and miss the interaction.

Jesus and Simon Peter. SIMON - uh call me the rock. No, old name, old way of life. Do you love me more than these? Do you think he's comparing with the other disciples? No. Way. I think he's pointing to the fish and the sea and the boats and his statement is do you love me more than this lifestyle. Do you super love me - agape - a love that you can't work up its prayed down through

the life of Spirit filled believers. Peter! Yes, Lord you know all things I'm I'm a philos. I'm very fond of you. Jesus didn't grab me by the togue and say Watch my lips. You know. I ask if his super - Jesus simply said. Feed my sheep. I'm looking for a work compelled by love. Do you love me? Do you super love me Peter? I'm incredibly fond of you Lord.

Feed my sheep. Oh! Maybe little beads of perspiration popped out. We don't know a few more bite and swallowed whatever they drank. Have you ever thought about that on this cookout. So have I. I don't know. And then Jesus spoke not to the rest of disciples but to Peter once again. Simon Peter all the day's other disciples probably smiling and saying Yeah Lord, speak to him. Guy's a little flaky we don't know this guy. Simon son of John. Yeah. Do you super love me? Yes Lord you know that I'm incredibly fond. Well, feed my sheep. Third time Simon son of John do you love me? If you've ever taken Greek or you've heard anybody teach on this you realize that Jesus actually kinda condescended in a way to Simon Peter's response because brothers and sisters you know when I say that I go from preaching the meddling he knew his heart. 38 years as a college chaplain God knows my heart. God knows where I am and who I am and he knows my motive. Even as I stand before you. You hear words but God knows my heart.

So the application. We're not going to jump real heavily on the last two so let me just nail the word compelled by Do yeah super love me? Oh Lord I'm I'm as fond of you as I can be but my love level is nowhere NEAR where it should be. It's OK. I'll take you at that level. You feed my sheep. That's my job is feeding the sheep because I believe contrary to many that God has called

me to preach and to teach the word. Your work of love will be feeding hungry people. It was for many of you. Going to Salt Lake City and witnessing to a very tough bunch of people who think they're already on their way to heaven. For many of you it's cross-cultural stuff. Your work of love is defined by the Spirit of God according to your gifts and your life. The key isn't whether Jesus loves us but our love level for him.

And Jesus said to Simon Peter not once but three times a question, he asked him a question that he knew the answer to. Third time Jesus said cut me a little slack here. OK the third time maybe Simon Peter heard him say I know your heart Peter and I know that you don't super love me but it's ok. Are you even really fond of me? Philos, phileo and scripture says and I guess one reason why I love this passage, so few commentators have focused on Peter's response. Scripture says Peter was grieved when Jesus said to him the third time. Not angry not embarrassed. There was no other emotion. Peter looking right into the eyes of Jesus the resurrected Christ. He was grieved. His heart was broken by the things that break the heart of God.

And folks he was never the same. When God the Spirit says to you and to me, to me and to thee, Do you love me? Your answer is your own. And it comes from your heart. You can't con God. And I'm so thankful for this passage of Scripture because the bottom line is always the same. I'll take you where ever you are. I'll take you wherever you are. Give me your life because I'm looking for a work compelled by love, way directed by Christ Jesus said oh good Peter, feed my sheep and then Jesus kept talking and he said you're young you choose your own toga. You

decide what you're gonna wear. When you're old you'll stretch forth your hands. Yeah. John says writing 20 years later this signified by the way he is going to die. I'm glad Jesus told us what was going to happen. I often wish we would have spelled out the death of Peter, the death of Paul. We have tons of others in Fox's Book of Martyrs. But the historians say including Josephus who didn't believe in Christ as the son of God that Peter's death happened this way.

He was caught as an old man. And they said are you Simon Peter? And he probably answered yes. But I'd rather be called Peter. You know the rock. Are you a follower of the way? I am. Will you recant your faith in Jesus Christ? I will not! Then we'll hang you on a cross! To which he replied, then hang me upside down as I'm not worthy to suffer and die as did my Lord and one of the Church Fathers who wrote it who lived actually during that time said that those around that inverted cross heard Simon Peter singing before he went to his death thrilled that he could glorify God in his life and in his death. A work compelled by Love, a way directed by Christ and a will content to follow. Are you?

I've done it for 38 years here. I've got a ton of stuff that I'm still working on but I'm committed with you that Jesus Christ would be the Lord of my life of my wife of my family of my goals and dreams and desires. And if God gives me a few more days, months, or years I'll invest this commitment continually in men and women who are here because in a sense these are my sheep. Who are your sheep and where are they? The answer to that comes from your heart. But the real

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question is do you love the Lord. Yes. Then feed my sheep. Do your work and the make. To God
Be the Glory.

Father blesses dismisses. May we finish strong this semester in Jesus strong name I pray and all
God's people said -

Audience:

Amen!

Hafer:

By the authority vested in me You are dismissed!

[audience cheering]