

From the President's Desk

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Up to Speed

LPN Pass Rates: The most recent LPN graduating class (Delta, BR) has posted 20 of 22 passing their licensure exam on the 1st attempt yielding a 91% pass rate! Congratulations to the grads and to all faculty and staff for their service to these graduates.

Accreditation Visit: Delta, BR will be hosting an accrediting team September 11-12, 2007 – more on that later.

God's Restoring Love

Many are familiar with the “denial of Peter.” I’ve recently come to have a whole new love for Christ as a result of His restoration of Peter – let me explain... There is a whole lot more to this than I am telling here, but I’ll try to keep it short.

It was the evening of His betrayal, and Jesus was eating the Passover Meal with His disciples. We’ve come to know this event as “The Last Supper” or “The Lord’s Supper.” During the meal, Jesus announced that one of them would betray Him. As the disciples were discussing this, Peter responded in Matthew 26:33-34, *“But Peter answered and said to Him, ‘Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Truly I say to you that this very night, before a cock crows, you shall deny Me three times.’”*

Peter was ready to give his life for Christ’s Kingdom, but did not yet understand what that kingdom was. He believed in Jesus with all his heart, but still had no idea that Jesus was to be offered up as a sacrifice for all people and that Peter’s plan was not Jesus’ plan.

As a matter of fact, Peter drew his sword and tried to kill one of those into whose hands Judas was betraying Jesus in order to defend Christ and help establish the kingdom as Peter perceived it. Then when Peter saw that Jesus had been captured, all Peter’s dreams came crashing down – Peter’s whole life was wrapped up in the plans he had made for Jesus and when those plans were destroyed, Peter did not know what to do.

As Jesus was on trial and Peter was observing from the courtyard, he did deny Jesus three times. Matthew’s Gospel tells us that on the third denial, Peter began to curse and swear that he did not know Jesus. The Gospel of Luke then records in Luke 22:61-62, *“And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, ‘Before a cock crows today,*

you will deny Me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.”

Peter was completely shattered – his world was gone. He had just “turned his back” on the One who loved him most. How could he go on? Then, three days later, Christ rose from the dead and appeared to Peter and others numerous times before His ascension.

Even though I am sure he was filled with joy, I’ve got to believe that Peter could not be completely comfortable when in the presence of the risen Christ. Peter had repented of his sin and Christ had forgiven him, but Peter could not forgive himself. I believe that Peter must have thought that Jesus could no longer love him.

It was at this time that Jesus did what Peter needed to restore Peter’s spirit. The complete account is given to us in John 21:1-17, when the risen Lord appeared to Peter and several of the disciples while they were fishing and then prepared a breakfast for them. During this breakfast Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Peter responded yes on all occasions. But during the third question and answer, John 21:17, *“He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things, You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend My sheep.’”*

I believe this exchange was necessary for Peter to finally forgive himself so that he could be all that Jesus wanted him to be, so that Peter could experience the “Joy of the Lord.”

I also believe that Jesus Christ stands ready to do the same for all of us. We can never sin so much or so heinously that Jesus cannot forgive us. I John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Practical Application for Delta

Many of our students fall into this category outside of the spiritual realm. How many of our students have been told they will never amount to anything and how many of them have never really been successful? Like Jesus to the spiritual realm, we can be to the physical, vocational realm.

Not only must we be what we want our students to become, we must mentor and nurture.

Remember, our goal is to help our students reach theirs.