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THE FATHER'S TENDER MERCIES

As one of the original twelve, Peter had become a “go to” guy, he was “inside the circle,” so to speak, along with James and John. However, one’s zeal doesn’t always equate with humility, nor do one’s words equate with actions. Jesus had already warned Peter to harness his thoughts when he had rebuked Him for foretelling His imminent death and resurrection, *“Get behind me Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man”* (Matthew 16:23 ESV). Even in this denial, Jesus did not set Peter aside, but kept him near, for He knew what was to come and how great a minister Peter would eventually be.

As His betrayal neared, Jesus again instructed them, quoting Zechariah’s prophecy. He says in Matthew 26, *“I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered”* (vs. 31). In his zeal, Peter again allows his words to go beyond his heart, telling Jesus he would never fall away (vs. 33), even promising our Lord he would die with him. Jesus predicts Peter’s ultimate denial, but Peter was still there in the Garden as Jesus was being arrested. In a last-ditch effort to save Jesus, he draws a sword and starts swinging, cutting the off the ear of one nearby. From there we know how Peter followed from afar, later by the fire he was called out, and then with curses and swearing he denied knowing Jesus. Peter wept bitterly, recalling the words Jesus had spoken to him (Matthew 26:75).

OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE

After Jesus is crucified, Peter finds himself “outside the circle,” and chooses to return to his former occupation of fishing. But between the resurrection of Jesus and the scene on the beach, an interesting thing happens, and it’s all about Peter. In Mark 16 two women, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, come to the tomb where Jesus was buried. While there an angel says, *“Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter, He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you”* (Mark 16:5-7).

The 23rd Psalm reminds us who our Heavenly Father is, it reminds us of His attributes, of His work towards us as a Shepherd ... as David says, *“Your rod and your staff, they comfort me”* (vs. 4).

Although Jesus gave multiple stern rebukes to Peter, He did not forsake him. Peter must have felt his denials were a deal breaker in a sense, as he seemed to be content to return to his previous work. However, we must understand the calling on Peter; it was Jesus who had called him, and God who had sustained him while Jesus was on the cross. Even as Peter received the “rod” of rebuke, he was no less a disciple than before. Peter will learn how the chastening rod of God is as much a comfort as the restorative staff of God.

RESTORATION

Fast forward to the beach, when Peter is reunited with his Risen Lord. Jesus restores Peter...restores his faith, restores his ministry, restores his very life. Jesus brings Peter back to the substance of these in the simple question, *“Do you love me?”* (John 21:15-19).

Oh! the deep, deep love of God, and how He pours it out on His children, restoring them from utter failure back to fruitful ministry! The lyrics of Fredrick Lehman say it well:

*The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell
The guilty pair, bowed down with care
God gave His Son to win
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin*

Perhaps you’re on the outside looking in after failing to achieve some lofty ministry goals. Perhaps you’ve shipwrecked your faith; you’ve left your first love. Do not despair! Listen for God to speak to you, watch for the Father to send someone in haste after you. As He sent an angel to tell the women to tell Peter, it may come oddly. But know it is God who seeks you out, sending word to you to meet Him again (TCF).

This article was written by Tim Files, an Aircraft Systems Analyst with Delta Air Lines. Tim also serves as Secretary-Treasurer on our FCAP Board of Directors, assists in facilitating FCAP trainings, and represents FCAP at functions throughout the world. His wife, Carol, faithfully joins him in ministry both near and far.

Join with others from around the world in prayer. Our **FCAP PHONE PRAYER CONFERENCE** is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 am EDT (1400 GMT), and again at 4 pm EDT (2000 GMT). Contact office@fcap.org or call 770.461.9320 for details.



THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

History:

The ministry of FCAP began in 1971 and was incorporated in 1973 when 50 people from eight different airlines in the United States and Canada met to consider how God wanted them to serve Christ in and through the airline industry. Since that time, the ministry of FCAP has spread in over 90 areas of the world. We are a fellowship among Christians in the airline industry worldwide that share a common commitment and focus.



Perspective & Focus:

Most people look at work primarily as a source of income. Some even view it as a curse imposed on them as punishment from God. **The Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel** believes that God places a high value on work and is deeply interested in our work, our performance on the job and our relationships with our co-workers. We recognize that both our work and the way we relate to people in the workplace are of great importance to God. So it is our mission: *“To represent Christ in the airlines through meaningful relationships and quality work.”*

FCAP’s two-fold purpose encourages people to *know and experience God’s presence with them at work* and to *trust Him for the enabling strength in the responsibilities and challenges of work*. We see authentic ministry in the workplace as a result of our displaying this relationship to our Lord within the sphere of our influence at work, without being coercive or self-serving.

Values:

- We value doing our work wholeheartedly as unto the Lord, knowing we represent Christ by the quality of our performance while on the job (Ephesians 6:6).
- We value intentionally engaging our faith in the workplace by expressing it in both deeds and words (1 Timothy 6:17-19).
- We value influencing the people around us by creatively building relationships with them and looking out for their interest just as we do our own.
- We value connecting the church in the workplace by seeking out other Christians, to mutually show our love for one another and our care for the people God has placed around us (John 13:35).

Making Your Connection:

Like the airline industry is all about making connections, so FCAP is all about Christians making their connection in the workplace in three basic ways:

- Connecting God’s purposes in the details of your work.
- Connecting ministry to God working through you to influence the people and circumstances of work.
- Connecting the church in the workplace in unique and creative ways, in order to extend and strengthen its influence.

WE OFFER: - Training that helps Christians integrate the Christian faith into the everyday details of our work and its challenges.
- Free publications and weekly thoughts that offer encouragement, gives focus, and provides information.
- Support and fellowship through local groups, prayer network, training sessions, special events and conferences.



The Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel

The ministry of FCAP is carried on by everyday ordinary people throughout the airline workplaces of the world who go to work with an extraordinary calling. The FCAP ministry does not focus on specialized people, nor are we a special interest group focusing on certain issues. FCAP is a fellowship of Christians who identify with one another through a common focus and purpose. And we desire to demonstrate how our faith in Jesus Christ can influence the people and circumstances of our workplace. We are blessed to have both airline and non-airline people who encourage and support this ministry.

Your Next Step:

Check on the FCAP website to see if there is a group in your area, or seek out and connect with other Christians at your workplace. Contact us at the international office for further assistance or click on [“Connect With Us”](#) on the website.

**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL**
136 Providence Road
Fayetteville, GA 30215
(770) 461-9320
office@fcap.org
www.FCAP.org

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