



Jesus by the Fire

After years of wanting one, I finally purchased a propane fire pit. It gives me a campfire experience any night of the week—especially when marshmallows are included. I love the sense of community, the warm glow, the relaxed atmosphere, and the way conversation flows so naturally around a fire.

One evening, as I sat alone by the flames, I thought about Jesus. I imagined him sitting around a fire with his disciples—teaching, sharing stories, laughing, and preparing food. That picture sent me on a little journey through Scripture, and I discovered something I'd never fully connected before: Peter's two significant encounters by a fire.

The first came on the night of Jesus' arrest. As Jesus stood on trial, Peter warmed himself by a fire in the courtyard—and there, within sight of his teacher, he denied knowing him three times.

The second came after the resurrection. On the beach, Jesus called to Peter and the others from the shore, telling them where to cast their nets. As they came to land, they saw a charcoal fire with fish and bread already cooking. It was there, by the warmth of the fire, that Jesus gently restored Peter—asking him three times, “Do you love Me?”

That fire was more than a place for breakfast. It was a place of redemption.

Whether or not you find yourself reflecting around a fire, be encouraged by the warm and powerful image of Jesus—risen, merciful, and restoring lives broken by sin. The same Jesus who met Peter in his failure meets us, too. The fire flickers, but his love does not. In his presence, we find mercy and the courage to begin again.

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