



One Page Sermon

By Pastor Robb McCoy

November 26, 2023

Our Money Story: Restore

Recap of sermon from November 26, 2023
Scripture: Genesis 33:1-17 and John 21:1-19

There are a plethora of home renovation TV shows. Thirty years after *This Old House* debuted on PBS in 1979 and made Bob Villa a household name, a new wave of home renovation shows became popular on channels like Discovery, TLC, and HGTV. They all followed a similar pattern. First, there is a house that needs to be improved. Perhaps it was hit by a storm and needed major repairs. Maybe it was years of neglect with walls crumbling, warped floors, or broken windows; or it could have not been remodeled or updated in decades.

Whatever the issues, they are shown, examined, and diagnosed. Then the work is put in. Experts come to fix everything. Costs are analyzed. There is usually a shopping montage or a time-lapse video of the work being done. Eventually, there is cut between what once was and what it has become, and the big, emotional reveal.

One show that is particular popular in this genre is *Love It or List It*. The premise of this show was that in the end the owners were faced with a choice. They could decide that they “love it,” and want to live there permanently, or they could “list it” and put it on the market to sell.

In this, our last week in Our Money Story, we are presented with two restoration projects. Jacob and Esau need some work. Their relationship was damaged when they were young and has suffered years of neglect. Jacob tricked Esau and fled, but now he wants to return to his homeland. He is fearful, but wants to restore a relationship that once was. So he, like the hosts of our TV shows, does the work. He does the work of reparations. He prays. He asks for forgiveness. He literally wrestles with God in the night and comes out limping.

He is met by Esau with amazing grace. He is embraced. The brotherly relationship of love is restored through forgiveness of Esau

The other restoration project is between Peter and Jesus. Their relationship was hit by a storm. Damaged by fear and crucifixion. Peter, the one who had promised to follow Jesus unto death, denied and even cursed the man when Jesus was undergoing his trial. Peter abandoned Jesus in his time of

need.

In this passage, Jesus restores Peter through the miracle of an abundant catch. He recognizes Jesus as “The Lord” as they eat breakfast on the beach. Yet the restoration doesn’t come until Jesus asks him, “Do you love me?” When Peter affirms his love, Jesus reminds him what that means: “Feed my sheep.” This is the good news, loving Jesus is easy, all you have to do is care for his sheep.

Both relationships restored. Both face a moment of truth. They can love it or list it. Jacob and Esau decide to “List it.” While there is forgiveness, they also decide to go their separate ways. Jacob and Esau make peace. They will not perpetuate violence, but they will settle in different countries. There is restoration, but they will walk away.

Peter chose “Love it.” He wants to remain in relationship. And Jesus told him what to do next: live into it. Move into the house and take care of it. The way to take care of it is to take care of each other. Jesus told Peter how to love him: care for others. Jesus told people what it means to love him: Follow him. Today we are all faced with this similar decision: “Love it or List it?” We are all redeemed and restored by God. Do we want to walk away, or do we want to live into it.

This is what it means to be a part of Christ’s Church—living into the restoration by caring for each other. We can decide today to step deeper into our trust, faith, and walk. We decide with our financial pledge, our prayer life, our time for study, and our service. If we “Love it,” we take care of it. We live into it. We buy into it, not to gain favor, but that is what it means to “Follow me.”



According to Wikipedia, *Love It or List It* is a home design TV show starring Hilary Farr and David Visentin broadcast since 2008 on various networks, including HGTV.

Next Week is the first Sunday of Advent
The Grandmothers: Tamar (Gen. 38:13-19, 24-27)