

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

### **REINSTATED AFTER THEFT**

The city manager of Brookings, the southernmost city on the Oregon coast, was reinstated last month after pleading no contest to a charge of theft after allegedly shoplifting from an area grocery store. Janell Howard repaid the store for the items she is accused of taking and paid a \$500 fine. But Brookings locals report feeling “betrayed” that she was given her old job back. “What message does that send to our at-risk youth that are trying to negotiate the system?” wondered Brookings resident Jan Miller. “That it’s okay to be a thief?” Concerned citizens vowed to hold a recall on all elected city council members who supported the reinstatement. That includes the mayor, said Miller. “We’re going to recall them all.”

### **REINSTATED AFTER BETRAYAL**

After denying three times that he was Jesus’ disciple, and after watching his Lord crucified and buried, Peter’s remorse weighed heavily upon him. Even the reports of Jesus’ resurrection had not brought relief from his sorrow. So when the risen Christ appeared to several disciples on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and asked if Peter loved him, Peter saw his chance to seek forgiveness. His three denials were canceled by three new protestations of his devotion to Jesus, and Peter was reinstated as leader of the newborn church.

1. Under what conditions would you consider reinstating a public official—or religious leader—who is guilty of a crime?
2. What cases could be made that Peter should or should not have been reinstated to lead the church?
3. How can we balance prudence with Christ’s forgiveness of us as we consider reinstating Christian leaders who fall?

### **Additional Resources**

*These videos and materials are for your personal use. If you show videos in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.*

Music Video, Traditional: [“Crown Him with Many Crowns”](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: [“You’re Still God” by Songs from the Soil](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: [“Cast My Cares” by Tim Timmons](#)

[Guzik’s Commentary on John 21](#)

[Smith’s Bible Commentary on John 21](#)

[Ellicott’s Commentary on John 21](#)