

PS's Ponderings



Lauri and I have been spending a few days away in Florida. Since you are still in the middle of winter back home — I will spare you the un-gory details about the weather we have been enjoying — and the view I am experiencing as I write this pondering. I am grateful for the gifts God gives to us, and the rest, as well as the time with Lauri, has been refreshing.



On Wednesday we visited the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, Florida — a facility where injured sea turtles are rehabilitated so they can be returned to the ocean. Most of these beautiful, graceful animals have been injured by mankind. Boat propellers, fishing nets or even just trash floating in the ocean. The science center, staffed entirely by volunteers, does an outstanding work of caring for these injured animals by treating their injuries and providing rehab aimed at helping them adapt to sea life despite their handicap.

One large sea turtle whose shell was almost 5 feet long and weighed over 500 pounds was learning to adapt to life with only three flippers. One of its front flippers was severely damaged by fishing line and had to be amputated. She was almost ready to be returned to the ocean.

As I watched the workers care for

this majestic creature I thought of Genesis 1:26, *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* Mankind has been charged with the care of the world that God created, and the creatures upon it, and I think he would be pleased with the Marine Science Center for their care of these injured sea turtles.

As I watched those workers care for the sea turtles, I was reminded that from time to time we all need a little rehab in our lives. Maybe it is rehab from an injury or a surgery, but sometimes we might need a little rehab of our heart. Sometimes those heart wounds require more rehab than even a repaired ACL or heart bypass. Heart wounds can cut deep.

I am beyond grateful for a God who is in the business of providing rehab for our heart. A God who cares deeply for us and wants to see us restored, healed and released back into a fallen world as Light and Salt — a testimony to His goodness and care. Hear His heart for you... *"And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart."* Ezekiel 36:26. Today we begin a new series on the 23rd Psalm called RESTORED. I love the beginning of this psalm... *"The Lord is my Shepherd..."* My heart for this series... is that your heart... would know that God's heart for you... is a restored heart. Reclaimed... Repurposed... Renewed... RESTORED.