

## John 21

Lets open to the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 5

**1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,**

**2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.**

**3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.**

**4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."**

**5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."**

**6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.**

**7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.**

**8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."**

**9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken,**

**10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."**

When Jesus first met Peter, this is how he was called. As we read through the Last chapter of John's Gospel, there is going to be a bit of Deja Vu, as Jesus is using repetition to make his point very clear. There is a common saying -- History repeats itself... I don't think this is an accident.. God teaches with patterns and rhythms. As we read through John 21, we are going to see how Jesus disciplines those whom he loves...

--Lets Pray --

Remember last week, Jesus visited his disciples twice... His message to them both times was "Peace be with you"

**1 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way.**

**2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together.**

**3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.**

Seven of the disciples were fishing.. 7/11ths of Jesus's hand trained ministers were investing their time in catching fish. - Remember Luke 5:10 said "**From Now on, you will be catching men**" -- Right now, they were catching neither fish nor man.

**4 Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.**

**5 Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No."**

**6 He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.**

Doing things God's way can be quite fruitful. Doing things our way, Not so much. As Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." Going fishing may not seem like it leads to death, but the truth is, we are dead already. Fishing was not the new life that Jesus trained these up men to live.

It is very easy for us to define sin as doing something that we shouldn't do. We can then say, Hey, I didn't steal, I didn't murder, I am a "pretty good person". I challenge you to take a good look at Matt 25 though... The virgins were failed to prepare, and were rejected by the bridegroom. The servant with the 1 talent failed to invest, and he was called a "Wicked and Slothful servant. The Goats "failed to do to the least of these" and were cast out. I was struck so hard by Matthew 25 this year. Keeping our nose clean is not enough.. We need to answer our calling. If you are rebelling against your calling, you are in Sin... I bet that every one of us is rebelling to one degree or another. When God calls, we should follow. Sin is not only doing what we are not supposed to do, it is failing to do what we are supposed to do.

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Jesus was subtly reminding his disciples here that they had a bigger calling. After his resurrection, Jesus taught "Peace be with you" -- But complacent peace wasn't what he had in mind. He was not telling us "Yes, I have defeated Sin, and death, now go back to your worldly business and forget that I came.." NO! No! no.. That is not what Jesus meant by "Peace be with you." He meant " I am calling you to do extraordinary things and live extraordinary lives, It will be hard- but you can be assured that God's Peace will be with you..."

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**7 That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.**

**8 The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.**

Jesus called Peter the first time with nearly the exact same circumstance. He climbed into Peter's boat to preach- Even though the fishing day was over, Jesus had him cast his nets, and a miraculous haul.. John, James, and Peter all must have recognized this as the work of Jesus, because this was the way Jesus worked.

**9 When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.**

**10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."**

**11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn.**

**12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.**

**13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.**

**14 This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.**

Jesus was a physical being. He touched and moved things. - Some folks will tell you he was only raised in Spirit. This passage, as well as the Thomas passage show that that is not the case.

Once again we see an example of Jesus returning to his role of servant. He is cooking breakfast for his disciples. Probably not in God's job description, but as he often does, he takes it on anyway out of love.

**15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."**

The word "These" is troublesome here. The Greek really doesn't give much clue what "these" is referring to.

He could mean Do you love me more than you love these other disciples , he could mean Do you love me more than the other disciples love me, or he could mean Do you love me more than this fishing stuff" Arguments can be made for any of these positions, but we don't know for sure. I seem to get the most meaning out of the third option. Jesus is asking him if he loves fishing more than leading the church.

**16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."**

**17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.**

Jesus' name for Simon, son of John was Peter. Jesus does not address him with that name. Peter, or Cephus was a word for "Rock" and Peter had failed to be the rock. 3 times he had denied Christ. 3 times Jesus asks him to repent of his cowardly denials.

Remember Peter's prideful boasting before Jesus was arrested?

Matt 26:31-35

**31 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'**

**32 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."**

**33 Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away."**

**34 Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."**

**35 Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.**

I love how Peter turns the question around with his answer. "You know that I love you", "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you", and "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you" - It is all about Jesus, what Jesus knows, what Jesus is. Our words are pretty shallow. We can say whatever we say, but God knows our heart. Peter's confession is IN CHRIST. It is not about what Peter did, it is not about what Peter said, it is about who Jesus is, and what Jesus did. His word say "I am who I am, and I have done what I have done, you know my heart."

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Peter had to be feeling like Robert Robinson's hymn Come the Fount:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Peter most likely was open and honest, and truly believed his own words when he said "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" He was believing himself over Jesus, who the verse before told him "**Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.**"

We really do not bring much to Jesus. Filthy Rags as Isaiah 64:6 says. Philippians 3:8 says Rubbish. The Greek word used for rubbish is also translated as "dung"  
At this point, we can be fairly sure that Peter understood that this point that his prior confession was dung. It was BS in today's vernacular. When Jesus asks him "do you love me"? He doesn't try to convince Jesus how much love he brings, he just simply confesses, "you know that I love you." It is interesting to compare his reaction at this point to his reaction in Luke 5:8 that I read earlier. **But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."** Really I think that we have two options as to what we do with our sin. We can long for darkness, and seek refuge from God, or we can walk into the light and let God be our refuge.----- I think this may be the most difficult part of being a Christian - we confess - Jesus owns our sin - He bought and paid for it. Whenever we pretend we don't have it, we are denying him some of his Glory. He knows our heart. He knows what he came to cleanse us from. By nature, We are sinful men, who have no business in the presence of a Holy and almighty God. But He is a loving God, who made it his business to rescue us, redeem us and bring us into his presence. Because of what he did, we have no business other than his business. ----- So when you are a sinful man confronted with an almighty God, are you jumping out of the boat to swim to him? Or do you get very uncomfortable?

There is another important subtlety lost in our translations. The first two questions that Jesus asks use the word "Agape" -- The unconditional sacrificial love.. Peter, however, answers with Philio, or brotherly love.. When Jesus asks the question for the final time, he meets Peter where he is at and asks using the phileo word for love. So in our translations it looks like Peter is responding in the affirmative, but he really is responding more in the negative. It is like when a man says to the woman - "I love you".. And she responds "I like you too" There is an awkward mismatch in terms.

Peter knew that Jesus had made a promise to him:

### **Matthew 16:18**

**"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."**

Peter could not, and should not trust Peter. -- But:  
Peter could and should trust Jesus.

**Philipians 1:6 "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."**

Jesus made a promise, and that promise was going to be fulfilled.

Peter could trust Jesus make him a new creation to fulfill that promise.

Jesus gave his servant Peter a job to do. "Feed my Lambs", " Tend my Sheep" "Feed my Sheep".

Ephesians 2:4-7 does a very good job of summarizing what Jesus did for Peter. - And us.  
**4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,**  
**5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--**  
**6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**  
**7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**  
**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,**  
**9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**  
**10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

God gives us a job to do as well. None of us are qualified by resume to do what we are called to do. We are qualified by submission to the Holy Spirit. We are God's workmanship.

**18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go."**

**19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."**

Peter said **"Even if I die with you, I will not deny you!"** That promise lasted a few hours.

Here Jesus tells Peter "you will follow me to your death", and that promise lasted forever.

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----Slowly----

So, what does all of this mean for us?

- It means that we are not worthy of the salvation that he gives to us. We have it solely because of his love for us.
- It means that we can come before him with an open and honest heart. We can walk in the light.
- We do not need to build a resume to prove that we love him, we just need to love him.
- Take whatever love and faith we have to him daily, and acknowledge that is is but a mustard seed... Trust him to make make it into something great.

----/slowly-----

-----Pause-----

- I think it is also a warning against pride.
- If we have a resume to impress, we will trust it rather than Jesus.
- God promises to humble us when we exalt ourselves, and to exalt us when we humble ourselves.
- We saw what happened when Peter showed off his pride, and contradicted Jesus' prophecy about the denials.
- As we move forward into Acts, we will see what happens as a result of Peter humbly laying it all in Jesus's hands.

**20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who had been reclining at table close to him and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"**

**21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?"**

**22 Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"**

Each person is different. Each of us have our own walk. We all have different temptations, different gifting, different callings. Human nature is to compare, envy and mimic, but that is not God's way. We are all to do what we are called to do, we are all to trust God. Our eyes should be fixed upon Jesus, not comparing ourselves to one another.

Every one of us has a grave that Jesus is calling us out of. We may be called out of a grave of drug abuse and helplessness. We may be called out of a grave of selfishness and thievery. We may be called out of a grave of religious self righteousness. As Jesus called Lazarus out of the grave, he has called us out of the grave. It is easy for us to look at a brother and say, wow, he sure is close to Jesus. I wish that I were like him. If I could only repent to the point where I was like him, I would be close to Jesus. If he is human however, his position is just a "better grave than ours" it is still a grave.

It is also a temptation to look down on those behind us. -- They can't be close to God because they have all of that despicable sin in their lives.. But they are walking out of their grave too. It is not our position that defines us, it is our progress.. Each of us should have our eyes fixed on Jesus. Walk the path that he marked out for us.

Jesus asked Peter to take his eyes off John, and to follow Jesus.

**23 So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"**

Just a little warning here --- read your scripture. Don't take other people's word for it. You will be disappointed in rumors and theories, but you will not ever be disappointed by the Word of God.

**24 This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.**

**25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.**

As we go forth from here, I challenge you to think about your calling... Are you doing what God is calling you to do? Are you doing it? or are you doing what is comfortable for you?

Think about your pride. Are you trusting in you? or are you trusting in the workmanship of God within you?

Are you shopping for a better Grave? or are you longing for that day that you meet Jesus?

Jesus came down to earth for a reason. He lived the perfect life -- without sin -- so that he could redeem us, as broken and useless as we are.. He died the death that we deserved in our place. He bought us with his blood, and he reforms us, gives us a new heart, and leads us to extraordinary lives. Lives of Peace. Lives of purpose, lives of love.

If you have not come to a place where you trust him as your Lord and your Savior, Come... You don't need a long resume of good deeds.. You don't need to clean up your act before you come. He doesn't ask those things of you. Just come, with an honest and open heart, and give him what love you have. Thank him for his mercy on you. Protecting you from the punishment that you deserve. Thank him for his Grace -- that he gives you life, love, and cleansing that you have in no way earned. 1 John 1:9 promises **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** Come to Jesus, just as you are, with humility and a contrite heart.

----pray-----