

Sermon Notes 04-26-2020

John 21 (NIV)

1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.

3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

6 He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. 15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

22 Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” 23 Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?” 24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. 25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

Sermon Notes

1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way:

A. They were supposed to be in Jerusalem waiting for the Holy Spirit to come according to Acts 1:4-5

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

B. They were a bit anxious and “jumping the gun” so to speak.

C. “It happened this way” is how an eye witness would say something.

2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.

A. Not all of the disciples went with Peter to Cana

3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

A. Peter, once again was the leader of the group. and went fishing.

- 1) If you backslide, you usually go back into what you came out of, as it is familiar to you.
 - A bank robber will return to robbing banks if they turn away from Jesus.
- 2) And yet it is never the same if you go back, as you are a changed person.

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

A. They fished all night and caught nothing. Bummer.

- 1) You can’t hide from Jesus! Even if you’re backslicing
- 2) When you are in a confused state of mind, you lose your clarity.
 - Without a vision the people will perish.
Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.
 - Sounds like they catching no fish, even after fishing all night long.

5 He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

A. “No,” they answered.

- 1) Even in their disobedience, Jesus still calls them “Friends”
- 2) Jesus knew their circumstance (caught no fish) and so he kinda teases them.

6 He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

A. Here is the question.

- 1) How does the fish, who are under the boat, know which side of the boat is the right side and which side of the boat is the left side.

B. Also, the same question stands for the disciples, “Which side is the right side?”

- 1) Is it your right or my right, as they are facing each other.

- 2) Also the boats were designed to go forward or backward without turning around.

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

A. This is where it really gets interesting for Peter.

- 1) It’s John who first recognizes Jesus by his voice.
- 2) As he tells Peter who it is, Peter then jumps into the water to see Jesus before the others.

B. The question is Why?

- 1) Why not wait until they finish with the catch of fish since that’s what they went fishing for.
- 2) And besides, it was a 100 yard swim, not that easy.

C. I believe Peter wanted to get to Jesus before the others so he could explain to Jesus why he denied Him 3 times that night.

- 1) The reason I believe this is because later on, Jesus asks Peter “Do you love me?” 3 times.
- 2) Talk about a guilt trip

8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

A. Isn’t that like Jesus to already have a meal prepared for them and not ask them to give up their catch.

10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

A. Leave its up to fisherman to tell you how many fish were caught; 153.

- 1) This is another eyewitness example.
- 2) And yet the net wasn’t damaged. Another miracle.
- 3) And by the way, Peter now has to leave Jesus, go back to the boat and join the others to bring back the fish.

B. Peter’s plan to explain to Jesus privately why he did what he did is “going sideways” in a hurry.

12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.
14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

A. First of all, Jesus invites them, just as they are.

- 1) Isn’t that what we are to do.
- 2) Come to Jesus just as we are.
- 3) A fisherman cleans the fish after it is caught, not before.

B. The disciples are feeling a bit uncomfortable because of the grace they are shown even in the midst of their disobedience.

- 1) And get this. This wasn’t the first time appeared to them.
- 2) They are on a “slow learning curve” and it’s the 3rd time He has appeared to them after the resurrection.

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

A. This must have been the worst meal Peter ever had.

- 1) Now Jesus asks Peter in front of the others. Bummer!
- 2) Compare this meal to the Last Supper.
 - Peter is adamant he will follow Jesus. Opps

B. And so Jesus addresses Peter in front of the others.

- 1) So much for his plan to tell Jesus while they were alone.
- 2) And now Jesus points to Peter and asks an interesting question, “Do you love me more than these?.”

C. The problem with the question for us is the grammar.

- 1) You can’t tell what the “these” are.
- 2) It can be the boats, and the fish, and everything else about the lake.
- 3) After all, that’s where Peter decided to go in his impatience.
- 4) The other option is that the “these” could have been the other disciples.
- 5) It is hard to tell from the question Jesus posed.

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

A. And now it gets more intense for Peter.

- 1) Peter is asked 3 times “Do you love me?”
- 2) Sounds like Jesus is doing a “tit for tat” concerning the denial of Peter 3 times.
- 3) And each time Peter responds “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

A. While the question is basically the same all 3 times and Peter’s answer is always in the affirmative, Jesus’ response to Peter’s answer, is different each time.

- 1) Jesus’ response to each answer goes in a progression of maturity.
 - a) Feed my lambs
 - b) Take care of my sheep
 - c) Feed my sheep

B. The progression goes this way

- 1) From lambs to sheep
 - Beginning from feeding the younger ones
- 2) And now with the sheep from care to feeding
 - To graduating to taking care of which is not as intimate as feeding
 - To feeding the sheeps, the mature ones.

C. Here is the reason.

- 1) Lambs do not beget lambs.
 - a) If the church is to grow, the lambs must grow into becoming sheep.
 - b) As sheep, they can now reproduce.
- 2) Young, immature christians don't produce new christians.
- 3) Mature christians can testify in confidence to unbelievers and offer them Christ.

D. What Jesus is saying to Peter is to “get back in the game”.

- 1) You may have to start from the beginning, but your learning curve and experience, will get you there very quickly.
- 2) This is an great example of mercy.
 - It also tells us that the gifts of God are given without repentance.
Romans 11:29 *For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*
 - Peter is still the rock.
 - He just needs to get back to acting like it.

18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

A. The scripture “If any man come after me he must deny himself, pick up his cross and then follow me.” still stands. Luke 9:23

- 1) It stands for Peter, and for you, and for everyone else.

B. There are 3 things here (another progression)

- 1) Denial of self
- 2) Pick up your own cross, not someone else's
- 3) And then you can follow Jesus

C. If you “follow” first, before denial and picking up your cross, you will eventually leave Jesus.

- 1) Easy come, easy go as they say.
- 2) Salvation is free. It didn't cost us anything.
- 3) Jesus paid the price in full
- 4) But what Jesus does demand of us is to totally give ourselves to Him.
- 5) For Jesus He desires an all or nothing commitment.

D. Even still, Jesus wants Peter to follow Him

- 1) Jesus know how valuable Peter is to Christ and eventually the church.
- 2) Jesus has put a lot of love and care and concern into Peter.
- 3) Jesus knows there is a huge payoff down the road if Peter gets it.

20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

A. You can see that learning and understanding don't always come immediately.

- 1) There is usually a lag between wisdom and knowledge.
 - The “A Ha” moment usually comes later.

B. Here, Peter is more concerned about John than Jesus.

- 1) Sounds like when Peter took his eyes off of Jesus when he was walking on the water and began to drown.

2) Jesus rescued Peter then, and will have to do so again.

C. You are never in completion with another Christian for God's favor.

1) He treats each person as an individual and desires each person to be obedient to what task they are given.

D. It is interesting that these lessons aren't grasped until Pentecost.

1) That's when they are willing to die for Christ.

22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

A. You are not better off because someone else is worse.

B. Also you are not worse off because someone else is better.

C. Competition isn't part of the Kingdom of God. Faithfulness is.

1) It was satan who introduced completion when he competed with God for heaven.
2) And he lost big time.

D. What Jesus is after is not success (Subjective) but faithfulness (Objective).

- 1) You can always be faithful to God, no matter the results.
- 2) In fact, your faithfulness does produce something in heaven.
- 3) It's your reward!

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seeks him.

23 Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

A. Once again there is the notion of personal testimony here in the story.

1) It is interesting that scripture views us as a "living epistle" and so the story of Jesus should continue.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3; 2 You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

- 2) That is the purpose of sheep.
 - a) To beget lambs.
 - b) The progression of us is to go from
 - nonbeliever
 - to believer
 - to disciple. Amen.