

Follow Me

❖ Recap

- **Coming to the Ending of a Great Journey through the Gospel of John**
 - Sermon #62
- **Remember John's Purpose**
 - John 20:31³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- **Last 2 times in John we saw the crucifixion of Jesus**
 - After that we saw the Resurrection and His Appearing before the disciples
 - We made a point that the resurrection was a very well documented and believable miracle
 - We talked about the overwhelming evidence there is for the validity of it
- **Then we made a point that if its real...**
 - IT should really change everything about us...
 - And cause us to walk in the ways of the Lord...

❖ Intro

- **Today we will look at the last chapter of the gospel of John**
 - The first 9 verses I am just going to read and say a few brief things about
 - Then we are going to really dig deep into the dialogue bw Peter and Jesus...
 - **And we are going to ask ourselves the questions:**
 - How does this exchange b/w Peter and Jesus
 - Affect me... How should I apply it in my own life...
 - Should I think about these things in a personal way ...
- **Our Outline Will Be**
 - After we look through the first 9 verses
 - **1 Jesus Calls us to Love Him**
 - **2 Jesus Calls us to Serve Him**
 - **3 Jesus Calls Us to Give Up Our Lives**
 - **4 Jesus Calls us to Follow Him**
 - **5 Jesus Calls Us to Be a Witness**

❖ Jesus Appears to the Disciples

- **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.
 - **Setting**
- **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. **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 Surprises the Disciple Yet Again**

➤ **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 Provides for His Followers**

❖ Jesus and Peter

- **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." **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 Calls us to Love Him

➤ Remember Peter's Denial

➤ Remember Jesus' Foretelling of the denial?

➤ **Jesus Comes to Restore Peter**

- 3 times He asks Him do you love me...

- Just like Peter denied Him three times...

- **But lets look at exactly how Jesus was asking Him....**

- Some of you may already know some of these things...

- To others it will be brand new... and that is exciting...

- And I hope it stirs in your heart a desire to read God's word every day...

- Because you see that it is deep and full of soul refreshing stuff

- **So He is coming to restore Peter...**

- But it will not be easy on Peter...

➤ **He Calls Him Simon....**

- Jesus does nothing by accident...

- And John notices this subtlety and records it...

- And almost a reminder of who he used to be

- **John 1:42** ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

➤ **Love:**

- Now despite what many will tell you... the New Testament was written in Greek... Not in Old English...
- Now... We love our English Bibles...
- But they are translated over into greek by the worlds best scholars....
- Yet sometimes there are important things in the text we do not see because we do not have a good word in the English to match up the word in the greek...
- And that is the case here when Jesus asks Peter if He loves Him...
- **1st time: (We need to put ourselves in the shoes of Peter... and consider Jesus asking us this)**
 - 15 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."
- **Do you love me more than these?**
- **More than these?**
 - Who or what are these?
 - **Now... I read MacArthur's Commentary on this and He believes that Jesus is asking John**
 - ◆ If he loves Him more than all the stuff around Him...
 - ◆ More than all the boats and fishing
 - ◆ More than the life He knows...
 - **Matthew Henry covers all the bases... and I think it is appropriate**
 - ◆ Maybe Jesus is asking Peter if He loves Him more than the fishing and the money He gets from it...
 - ◆ Or the fun of fishing... the excitement...
 - ◆ Maybe He is asking Peter if he loves Jesus more than the other disciples love Jesus
 - Maybe thinking back to Peter's promise to never fall away even of all the other disciples do
 - ◆ Maybe He is asking Peter if he loves Jesus more than He loves the other disciples...
- **To whichever He is asking it makes no difference in my mind...**
 - Because we are called to love Jesus... more than we love anything...
- **Why is Jesus Asking Peter if He loves Him...?**
 - There is real reason to doubt the love that Peter professed to have for Jesus...
 - Because when it came time to prove it... Peter failed...
 - So Jesus asks Him... Do you love me...
- **Love**
 - He asks Peter do you love me... do you (agapas) me
 - Agapas means a God like love...
 - ◆ One definition puts it like this: that it indicates a direction of the will and finding one's joy in someone
 - So Jesus asks him if He loves Him like this...
- **Peter answers back**
 - You know that I love You
 - But He uses a different word... and I believe it is because He knows what He did...
 - ◆ And He knows that Jesus knows His heart

- **Peter says : You know that I (phileo) you**
 - ◆ Phileo meaning an emotional and affectionate love for someone...
 - ◆ Not the same word... and not the same strength of love
- **Peter knows His actions have not lined up with His proclamations before...**
 - And it is hard on Him
- **2nd time:**
 - **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."
 - Jesus does it again... He asks Him the same way...
 - And Peter responds the same way
- **3rd time:**
 - **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."
 - **This is where it gets very serious...**
 - After Peter admits that His love is not the type of love that Jesus is asking...
 - But Peter says... You know that I love you (phileo) I have a strong affectionate love for you
 - **Jesus then questions that...**
 - He no longer says Peter... do you agape me...
 - He then asks Peter... do you phileo me... Do you love me affectionately
 - **This grieves Peter**
 - And rightly so... And learn that it is often a good thing for our soul to be grieved
 - When confronted with the Word of God...
 - Peter is confronted with the fact that Jesus DOES know how much He loves Him
 - Because Jesus can see into the depths of Peter's heart...
 - **When the Words of Jesus confront Peter**
 - It grieves Him....
- **So We Jesus calls us to love Him...**
 - And what we will see now... Is that there is a way to prove our love for Jesus...
 - And it is by serving Him by serving others...

❖ **Jesus Calls us to Serve Him**

- **Saying we love and actually loving are two different things...**
 - Those that do not truly love Christ will never truly love the souls of men,
- **We show our love for God in how we serve His people...**
 - **1 John 3:17-18** ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.
- **Jesus says.... If you say You love me Peter... or whoever may read this...**
 - If you say you love me:
 - "Feed my lambs."
 - "Tend my sheep."

- "Feed my sheep.
- **Jesus is telling Peter that He needs to take care of the believers...**
 - Peter needs to make sure He feeds the sheep of God...
 - He is saying the same thing every time...
 - Instruct and teach my children...
 - **Make sure my sheep hear my word....**
 - ◆ Feed them... even when they do not know me yet
 - ◆ Feed them... even when they are not listening
 - ◆ Feed them... even when they do not realize they need to eat
- **How well do we feed the people of God....**
 - How important is it to you to make sure that others know about Jesus...
 - The mark of a Christian is His service to God... and making sure that others hear the Word...
 - **I have never met a man or woman of God that professed Christ with their and lived it out...**
 - That did not concern themselves with the spreading of the Word of God...
 - I have met a lot of people that claim to care about Jesus...
 - But the pattern of their life told me something different...
- **Got to know the Word**
 - If you are going to feed the sheep
- **Jesus is saying the same thing this morning...**
 - If you say you love me... what are you doing?
 - James says it like this
 - **James 1:22 "But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"**
- **If this Word from the Lord his morning Grieves you... or pricks your heart...**
 - Then be delighted that God loves you enough to discipline you
 - Because He disciplines His children... It is a great show of the love of God...
 - And you are in great company... With Peter... because it grieved him as well...
- ❖ **Jesus Calls Us to Give Up Our Lives**
 - **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 Gave up His life for Jesus**
 - History tells us that Peter was arrested for his preaching of the gospel
 - And He was led away to be crucified
 - And when they went to nail him up He asked that He be crucified upside down
 - He said He was not worthy to be crucified in the same way as His master...
- **We are called to the same service...**
 - Matthew 16:25-26 ²⁵ **For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.** ²⁶ **For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?**
 - **Most of Us are not called to go as far as losing our physical life**

- But that is not all it means to give up our life in this world....
- We can give up our lives in many ways...
 - ◆ Expound
- **Have you given up yours to follow Jesus?**
 - Truly ask yourself this question... I have to always ask myself this...
 - Following Jesus is not easy... And We are not going to teach or preach that here...
 - It is a call to service and putting others before self...

➤ **Jesus graciously Restores Peter**

- **Remember when Jesus warned him of his coming denial...**
 - Luke 22:31-32 ³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.
- **Jesus did not seem to pray for Peter not to deny Him...**
 - He just prayed that in the midst of Peter's denial and disobedience and cowardice
 - That his Faith not fail....
- **And Here Jesus has come to Him...**
 - Asked Him if He loves Him...
 - Jesus essentially says.... If you love me... then let your life show it...
 - And He says Follow Me...
- **And Jesus Restores Peter**
 - He allows Peter to start all over again...
 - ◆ It wasn't an easy conversation... But Jesus was Gracious towards him
 - **And Jesus says... Follow me....**
 - ◆ The same thing He said to Peter the first time He called Him....
 - Matthew 4:18-20 ¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
 - ◆ Which leads me to the next point....
 - ◆ Jesus Call us to Follow Him...

❖ **Jesus Calls us to Follow Him**

- **And after saying this he said to him,"Follow me."**
- We are Called to Follow Jesus...
 - Matthew 16:24-25 ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
- **The People of God follow Jesus**
 - John 10:27 ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
- **The True Sign of Salvation**
 - Is if the person follows Jesus....

- It is so simple...
- If a person is not following Jesus...
- **How do you know if you are following...**
 - The Word of God... you must know it...
- **Now... sometimes Jesus can be a little tough on us...**
 - But we need that and the stakes are high...
 - I think so many of us take our walk with God lightly...
 - Thinking it doesn't matter how or what I do or say...
 - **But it does...**
 - Adam and eve probably thought the same thing...
 - And their one little sin...
 - Led to the rebellion of the entire human race....
- **So... Jesus has one more tough thing to say to Peter...**
 - And it is really saying the same thing He just said

❖ You Follow Me

- **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!" **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?"
- **If it is my will that he remain.... What is that to you... You follow me!**
 - Jesus was very emphatic with Peter...
 - You see the exclamation point...
 - That wasn't just thrown in there...
 - That is how John wrote it because that is how John heard it...
 - Jesus raised His voice with Peter...
 - Wanting peter to get it...
- **Jesus says...**
 - Do not worry about what I got everyone else doing...
 - You worry about what I got you doing...
- **Too often we are so childish**
 - My kids are great and I am so proud of them
 - But they are forever... Well He gets to do this, or she gets to do that...
 - On and on it goes...
 - And I do not care if they think what I tell them to do is fair or not...
 - I want them to do what they are told to do...
- **And then I am convicted...**
 - Because God is saying the same thing to me... and to you...
 - Do not worry about someone else's calling...
 - You get your job done...

- **We serve God...**
 - Not because others do it... not because it just has to be done...
 - We serve and follow Jesus because we Love Him...
 - We Go where He goes
 - We Pattern our lives after Him

- **You follow me!**
 - Be serious today about following Jesus...
 - **Do not walk out the door today after telling Jesus...**
 - I will follow you even if it costs me my life...
 - And then as soon as He says... pray and study my word...
 - Say... I just do not have time...
 - **Or... as soon as He says reach out to that person**
 - Say... I just do not know what to say... or I will do it later...

- **We are called to follow**

❖ **Jesus Calls Us to Be a Witness**

- **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.

- **John was a faithful Witness**

- What a great book with a great purpose
- He just wanted to make sure people heard the story
- And that after they heard the story they would believe it was true...

- **And John expected people to believe**

- Because He was there... He had seen all these things with His own eyes
- Heard it with His own ears...

- **We are called to do the same thing...**

- It should be written of you when you die and leave this earth...
- That you had been a faithful witness of Jesus Christ...
- You represented Him well with your life
- And you faithfully proclaimed Him to those around You
- And you knew God's word well enough to teach people rightly

❖ **Invitation**

