

Gospel of John Chapter 21

Well here we are. The last chapter of the Gospel of John!!

John 21:1-14(NIV)

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

²Simon Peter, Thomas (called 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.

- Peter the denier – Thomas the doubter
 - The church is made up of all kinds of deniers, doubters and sinners
 - Thank God!! There is room for me!
- Simon Peter – I’m going fishing – He was a fisherman – that is what he did and what he knew
 - The others decided to join him
- “When we don’t know what to do we go back to doing what we know”
 - That could be good
 - Tradition – stable and strong
 - Could be bad
 - Traditionalism – idolatrous – weakens and hinders
- Many people know this thought “Don’t just sit there do something”
 - But with God it might be better, **“Don’t just do something sit there.”**
- They were unsuccessful in their own strength and they knew what they were doing.
 - They were fisherman
- That night they caught nothing!
- Jesus had already performed a fish miracle
 - **Luke 5:6-11(NIV)** ⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.
⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.
⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”
⁹For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,
¹⁰and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.”
¹¹So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.
- From that point on fishing symbolized evangelism
 - Without Jesus direction and blessing there is no spiritual fruit

At this point Jesus does three things

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

⁵He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered.

- **First**, He asks a question – Do you have any fish?
 - The point was that the disciples had to reveal their inadequacy

- God asks questions to get us to face the reality of the situation
- The answered honestly and correctly – No!

⁶He 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.

- **Second**, Jesus gives a command
 - Throw the net on the right side
 - Why the right side?
 - I don’t know and it doesn’t matter
 - If he had said left – fish would have still filled the nets because that is what God is blessing
 - “they would have swarmed from every part of the lake of Galilee, so anxious would they have been to be caught.” Boice
 - The point is not where, but where is the Lord directing. Where is He leading
- **Third**, Jesus blesses their obedience
 - When they obeyed the caught more fish than they could handle

⁷Then 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.

- The disciple whom Jesus loved – John
 - Said, “It is the Lord”
- “As soon as”
 - Peter jumped ship to get to Jesus
- Peter had denied Jesus
 - Yet he knew the only hope was to go to Jesus
 - Jesus called out
 - Peter responded
 - Same for all
 - Jesus calls - We respond

⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.◦

⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.”

¹¹Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord.

¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

- Come and Have breakfast
 - John 1:39 – Come and See
 - Come and Learn

Gospel of John Chapter 21 Part II

This is perfect ending to the Book of John.
The Resurrected Savior is Redeemer and Restorer

John 21:15-25(NIV)

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

- To understand this story we must understand what happened leading up to this part
- Peter had denied Jesus
 - But he had been on a slippery slope before the denial
 - Pride – The others might fall but I won’t
 - I’ll lay down my life for you – John 13:37
 - Trying to prove his love
 - Actually revealed his insecurity
 - Pride is thinking too much of yourself
 - Thinking of yourself too much
 - Humility is not thinking little of yourself
 - It is not thinking of yourself at all
 - Sleeping when he should have been praying
 - Temptation was upon him
 - Watch and Pray
 - Rash
 - Took matters into his own hands
 - When he picked up a sword and cut off the servants ear
 - Fearful
 - When asked if he was with Jesus
 - He was afraid of the consequences
 - All this and more led to his denial of Jesus
 - 3 Times he denied Jesus before the rooster crowed
 - Just like Jesus said
 - In fact at the last denial Jesus looked right at him
- This is why He needed a Redeemer and Restorer –
 - Only a Resurrected Savior
 - Could snatch from death
 - Give life
 - Give a new life and purpose
- Jesus begins the restoration process by asking a question
 - Simon son of John – his name before he met Jesus
 - Meant – pebble
 - Renamed him Cephas – Peter
 - Which meant Rock

- Jesus begins by reminding Peter of his weakness
 - Jesus can transform the weak and make strong
- Do you Love me– Agape
 - English doesn't do the word Love justice
 - I love my dog – I love the Steelers
 - I love my wife and kids – it's not the same
 - Agape is God type love
 - Do you love me more than these?
 - More than the other disciples
 - Playing off of Peter's boast and subsequent failure
 - 100 % love
- Peter do you love me 100%
- Peter replies you know I love you
 - 60% love Phileo –
 - Peter was humbled by his failure and wasn't as sure of himself as he once was

¹⁶Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

- This verse repeats the questioning – minus the more than these
- Do you 100% love me
- Lord you know I 60% love you

¹⁷The 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."

- Do you love me 60%
- Peter was hurt this time
 - Jesus was asking "Do you even love me that much?"
- Peter appeals to Jesus Omniscience
 - You know
 - You know I love you

Jesus asked him 3 times do you love me

Peter had denied him 3 times

Jesus accepted Peter's humility

Commissioned him to Feed His sheep

- From lambs to sheep
 - From new believers to mature believers
 - Lambs – don't forget the children
- Feed them
 - The Word of God is food for the soul and spirit
 - The primary role of the pastor is to teach the Word
 - Everything is secondary
- Your failure doesn't disqualify you

- Your pride does
- Peter was sufficiently humbled
 - Abraham
 - Moses
 - David
 - Saul – Paul

We can only serve Jesus out of love and humility

We can only serve his flock out of love for Jesus and humility

Peter learned and lived this lesson

1 Peter 5:1-11(NIV) ¹To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

²Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

⁵Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”⁶

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

⁷Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

¹¹To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

¹⁸I tell you the truth, 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.”

¹⁹Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

²⁰Peter 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?”)

²¹When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

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

²³Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers 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?”

- Jesus told Peter how he would die
 - Peter was crucified upside down
- Peter wanted to know about John
- Jesus told him – that is not your concern
- You are follow me
- I like the phrase – “That’s not my race”
 - God has a race picked out for us
 - My is different than yours
 - Yours is different than mine
 - We are only responsible to follow Jesus
 - Let Jesus determine the race for others

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

²⁵Jesus 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.

- This concludes our study of the Gospel of John
- 2.5 yrs
 - 346 pages of notes
 - 132,852 typed words
 - Approx. 500 hours of study

John 20:31(NIV)

³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.