

“Gospel of John – Rebellion and Restoration”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer
Calvary Baptist Church

May 19th, 2024

Scripture

John 21:1-17

“After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way. Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, **“I am going fishing.”** They said to him, **“We will also come with you.”** They went out and got into the boat; and that night **they caught nothing.**

But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. So, Jesus said to them, **“Children, you do not have any fish, do you?”** They answered Him, “No.” And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch.” So, they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

Therefore, that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, **“It is the Lord.”** So, when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work) and threw himself into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish.

So, when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have now caught.” Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, **a hundred and fifty-three**; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.”

None of the disciples ventured to question Him, “Who are You?” knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

So, 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, **“Tend My lambs.”**

He said to him again 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, **“Shepherd My sheep.”**

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 all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, **“Tend My sheep.”**

Last Week

We looked at the Resurrection event

We looked at Jesus’s reunion with His disciples

We discuss what Jesus said in the Resurrection

This Week

Impatience and remorse lead to a little rebellion

But Jesus shows up with restoration on His mind

The Scene at the Sea

John 21:1-2

“After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way. Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.”

Jesus told them to meet in Galilee

Matthew 28:8-10

“They left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, **“Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”**

He told the disciples the same thing before the cross:

Matthew 26:31-32

“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.’ But **after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”**

Jesus said something else very important right after this

Matthew 26:33-35

“But Peter replied to Him, **“Even if they all fall away because of You**, I will never fall away!” Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” Peter *said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” **All the disciples said the same thing as well.”**

The brash Peter **declares his loyalty to the Lord!**

We know what happened with Peter, don't we? -> three times he denied the Lord!

Jesus does plan to meet the disciples in Galilee -> He didn't say “when” He would be there, though

Does Jesus purposely show up late? -> He has done this before with Lazarus (**John 11**)

Rebellion

John 21:3

“Simon Peter said to them, **“I am going fishing.”** They said to him, **“We will also come with you.”** They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.”

“I am going fishing!”

Caught up with his personal failures, after waiting for the Lord to show up, Peter is frustrated

His plan for the Lord's ascension into power didn't happen.

After the Lord's death, Peter has other ideas

He's going back to his old life, his old line of work

The other disciples who were fishermen, notably Andrew, James and John, say:

"We will also come with you!"

Peter was the oldest and the de facto leader of group, he influenced the others

James and John, as well as Andrew, were fishermen. Everyone is going to follow Peter – it's a rebellion

Were they supposed to be fishing?

Jesus said he was no longer to be fishing for fish but fishing for men:

Matthew 4:18-19

"As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "**Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.**"

"They caught nothing"

Providentially, there was no fish to be caught

Confrontation

John 21:4-6

"But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. So, Jesus said to them, "**Children, you do not have any fish, do you?**" They answered Him, "No." And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So, they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish."

"You don't have any fish, DO YOU?"

The Lord **knows** they have no fish because He is **controlling the catch**.

"Cast the net to the right-hand side of the boat"

Recognition

John 21:7-8

"Therefore, that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "**It is the Lord.**" So, when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (**for he was stripped for work**) and threw himself into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish."

John recognizes that it is the Lord!

Peter puts his outer garment on -> "**for he was stripped for work**" -> he went back to his old job

Peter jumps into the water. **He cannot wait to see the Lord.**

Why do you think Peter did that? -> did he want to come clean to the Lord? -> Did he just want to see Jesus?

The Lord controlled the fish in the Gospels -> He's teaching them that **He STILL controls the fish!**

In the Resurrection, He is STILL Lord...**the original plan is still in place.**

Breakfast

John 21:9-14

"So, when they got out on the land, **they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it**, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, **a hundred and fifty-three**; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." **None of the disciples ventured to question Him**, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead."

You know how the Lord makes breakfast?

The Lord made breakfast!

Where did the fish come from? "I will provide for you, Peter. You don't need to do that!"

"the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples" -> we covered the first 2 last week

Jesus was showing them His hands and side, pierced for them

Love

Love might be the most overused word in the English language

We love everything: people, food, weather, material possessions

But you don't love ice cream the same way you love a spouse, right?

Four Greek words for love: **Eros, Storge, Phileo, and Agape**

Restoration

Question #1

John 21:15

"So, 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, "**Tend My lambs.**"

"Do you love Me..." (Do you think Jesus is Hopeful? or Doubtful?)

Jesus uses **agape**, the highest level of love with the deepest commitment

"More than these"

What is the "these" Jesus is referring to?

More than these other disciples? or More than these fish!

Why? Because Peter was going back to the fishing career

Peter's Response: "Yes Lord, you know that I love you"

Peter responds using *phileo*, a brotherly love

Jesus: Do You Love Me deeply?

Peter: Lord, I like you a lot...

Feed / Tend

"bosko" – "to feed with nourishment" -> the inference is spiritual nourishment

Lambs

"arnion" – "a little lamb" – the inference is a spiritual baby, those new to the faith

Not a reference to the other disciples

Peter is to **be committed to teach the Word** to those the Lord would be bringing into the Kingdom and providentially bringing to Peter

Question #2

John 21:16

"He said to him again 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, "**Shepherd My sheep.**"

Jesus again says, "Do you love Me..."

Jesus again uses *agape*, the highest level of love with the deepest commitment

Not in relation to the fish this time, but in general saying, "Peter, what level of commitment do you have for Me?"

In **John 6**, Jesus was talking about His death and drinking His blood and eating His body. It was madness to those who did not have spiritual insight into what He was teaching.

John 6:66-68

"As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. So, Jesus said to the twelve, "**You do not want to go away also, do you?**"

Simon Peter answered Him, "**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.**"

Jesus asks, "Are you going away also?"

Peter says, "Where are we going to go? You are the only One with words of life"

Matthew 19:25-27 (after the Rich Young Ruler leaves)

"When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "**Then who can be saved?**" And looking at them Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Then Peter said to Him, "**Behold, we have left everything and followed You**"

The disciples gave up their lives to follow Him

Peter, Andrew, James, and John weren't **fishing** any longer,

Matthew no longer collected **taxes**

Simon the Zealot gave up **political ambitions**

What is Peter's great response to Jesus's question this time?

Peter's Response: "Yes Lord, you know that I love you"

Peter responds using ***phileo***, a brotherly love

Jesus: Do You Love Me deeply?

Peter: Lord, I like you a lot...

Shepherd

"*poimano*" -> "to guard, guide, and protect the flock"

Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd

John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

He was not a hired hand like others who would run away if there was a wolf nearby

Good shepherds would lay in the doorway and protect the sheep with their lives.

"You've gotta get by me, first, if you're going to get my sheep"

Jesus said that about Himself and the disciples

John 17:12

"While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and **I guarded them and not one of them perished** but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled."

Sheep

"*probation*" – "A sheep or someone easily led, one way or the other like sheep"

Not only the little ones that don't know any better, but the whole flock!

Jesus delayed long enough for Peter to go back to fishing

What did Peter do? -> He led the others to follow him into the water.

"What are you going to do when I'm not around, Peter?"

Can you imagine the Lord saying, "I'm going to Glory."

"You're not going to see Me any longer"

"You think this little kerfuffle of denying Me three times is a big deal?"

"Wait until the real pressure is on you because it's coming your way."

Question #3

John 21:17

“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 all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**"

Jesus again says, “Do you love Me...”

This time, Jesus uses phileo -> a brotherly friendship love without deep commitment

Peter was grieved -> Why was Peter grieved?

Was it because Jesus was continuing to ask Peter the same question? Three times?

No, it was a different question

Jesus is questioning whether Peter even has a brotherly love for Him

Tend/Feed My Sheep!

Peter's Rededication

John 21:18

“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you and bring you where you do not wish to go.”

Jesus reveals to Peter what his future looks like

He will have freedom for a while but then he will be stretched out and give his life for Christ

You think Peter got the message? -> Peter learned the lesson

1 Peter 5:1-4

“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion**, but voluntarily, **according to the will of God**; and **not for sordid gain**, but with eagerness; **nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge** but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

- Not because you're forced to do it
- Not for the money
- Not for fame or glory
- Not for being able to be in charge and boss people around

When Christ comes back, He will give you all the glory you need.

What about Our Dedication to the Lord?

Do you just like Him a lot? OR do you have a deep devoted love for Him?

Prayer - Benediction