Summary

In this sermon, the pastor explores what it means to leave a lasting legacy by examining one of Jesus's final encounters with His disciples in John 21. Using the scene where Peter and the other disciples return to fishing after the resurrection, the pastor draws out four key principles for building a life and legacy that endures: choosing calling over comfort, refusing to let failure define you, taking steps of faith even when they do not make sense, and serving those around you regardless of the circumstances. The pastor weaves in personal stories of stepping away from a comfortable career to pursue ministry, as well as the broader mission of the church to support life-changing ministries. He emphasizes that blessings along the way are not always the final destination but are often provision for the journey ahead. Just as Peter was days away from preaching at Pentecost while sitting on a fishing boat catching nothing, the pastor reminds listeners that they may be closer to a breakthrough than they realize, and that Jesus meets people right where they are.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. As we gather together, we ask that You quiet the noise of our daily lives and help us to hear Your voice clearly. Just as You met Peter and the disciples on the shore, meet us right here in this room. Give us the courage to choose Your calling over our comfort, and help us to see the legacy You are building through each of our lives. May Your Spirit guide our conversation today, and may we leave this time encouraged, challenged, and closer to You. In Jesus name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one hobby or skill from your past that you have gone back to during a stressful season of life, and why did it feel so comforting?

Key Verses

- Proverbs 28:19
- John 21:3
- John 21:6

- John 21:9-10
- John 21:15-17

Questions

- The pastor described Peter saying 'I'm going fishing' as a return to comfort and familiarity after a difficult season. Can you think of a time when you retreated to something familiar instead of pressing forward in faith? What did that feel like?
- When Peter chose to go back to fishing, the other disciples followed him. How have you seen someone else's choice to pursue comfort over calling influence the people around them, either positively or negatively?
- The pastor shared that he received a phone call offering him a comfortable, well-paying job right in the middle of pursuing his calling in ministry. Have you ever faced a moment where a comfortable option competed with what you felt God was calling you to do? How did you respond?
- The disciples fished all night and caught nothing, yet Jesus still showed up and blessed them. What does this tell us about how God responds to us even when we have wandered or failed? How does that change the way you see your own failures?
- Jesus told the disciples to throw their net on the right side of the boat, and they caught 153 fish. The pastor noted that a blessing is not always a destination but sometimes provision for the journey. Can you share a time when you mistook a blessing for the finish line instead of recognizing it as fuel to keep going?
- Jesus had breakfast waiting for the disciples on the shore, prepared before they even arrived. What does this image of Jesus serving them after the resurrection tell you about His character and His care for you personally?
- In John 21, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him, and each time He responds with a call to serve others. Why do you think Jesus connected love for Him so directly to serving and caring for others? How does that challenge or encourage you?
- The pastor closed with three questions: Where is God calling you? What is your next step? Who are you serving? Which of these three questions is the hardest for you to answer right now, and why?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area where you have been choosing comfort over calling. It might be a conversation you have been avoiding, a step of faith you have been putting off, or an opportunity to serve someone that you have walked past. Write it down, pray over it, and take one concrete action toward it

before the week is over. Share what you plan to do with someone in your group so they can encourage you and hold you accountable.

Key Takeaways

- Choose calling over comfort: returning to what is familiar and safe can pull you and those around you away from the purpose God has for your life.
- Do not let failure define you: even when you come up empty, Jesus meets you where you are and uses your moments of failure as opportunities for His grace to show up.
- Take the step even when it does not make sense: you may be closer to a breakthrough than you realize, and obedience in uncertain moments is often what unlocks what God has next.
- A blessing is not always a destination but sometimes provision for the journey: do not stop moving forward just because God has blessed you in a season.
- Serve those around you: Jesus modeled servant leadership by preparing breakfast for the disciples after the resurrection, and a lasting legacy is built through consistent, humble service to others.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word. We are reminded today that You meet us on the shore even when we have wandered, that You prepare a table for us even when we feel like we have failed, and that Your calling on our lives is louder than the comfort we are tempted to run back to. Give each person in this group the courage to take their next step, the humility to serve those around them, and the faith to trust that You are already preparing something on the other side of their obedience. May the legacy we leave point others straight to You. In Jesus name, amen.