

Series: It's Not About Me
Love God With All Your Strength
(John 21:1-17)

John 21:10-17: *Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." 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. 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. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after He was raised from the dead. 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." 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." 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."*

FLASH BACK A FEW DAYS EARLIER...

John 13:37,38: *Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for You." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied Me three times."*

John 18:25-27: *Meanwhile, as Simon Peter was standing by the fire warming himself, they asked him again, "You're not one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "No, I am not." But one of the household slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?" Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed.*

1. Imagine yourself in the scene. Imagine yourself Peter, dripping wet, tired and confused, now standing before Jesus, with six of his friends sitting nearby enjoying breakfast.

Knowing what you do about Peter, share in your own words what is going on in this encounter in John 21. No wrong answers, just your own impressions.

What do you smell?

What are you thinking?

What are you feeling?

2. Jesus began the dialogue with these words "Do you love Me more than these?"

What do you think He meant? Explain your answer.

How would you fill in that blank? Do you love Me more than _____? Do you? How far would you be willing to go for the sake of your love for Jesus? Talk about a cost you've already paid for following Jesus. Listen as others share.

3. Today, many people believe that Christians are going to be called upon in the not-too-distant future to pay the cost of following Jesus. Agree? Disagree? Those of us living in the United States have so far been spared the radical cost of discipleship that many others all over the world have paid.

Share any stories, old or current, that you know of people paying a high cost for loving and following Jesus. Pray as a group for those facing severe consequences for being Christians today.

What should the church do to help our people prepare for persecution?

What should parents do to help their children prepare for persecution?

4. At the beginning of Joe's message, he told the story of Mr. Ivy Lee and Charles Schwab.

Using space on this page, write down the most important thing you need to do tomorrow. You can list others if you'd like. If willing, share with the group what you have written as Priority #1.

Extra Credit: At the end of the chapter, Jesus is leading and Peter is following, but Peter turns back and, seeing John, asks Jesus, "But what about him?" I love that part. I'm often comparing myself with others, especially those who I think ought to be following Jesus like I am. What do you see in that final dialogue?