

## John 21:15–25

Review:

Prologue – Jesus Christ full of grace and truth

Public ministry of 7 miracles and 7 I am statements

Private ministry with his disciples

Passion of Christ – death, burial and resurrection.

Epilogue – Jesus demonstrates he is full of grace and truth.

### How do you put a period to this book?

**Vs 24-25** *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.*

Are you in need of restoration?

#### 1. Loving Jesus is greater than serving Jesus.

**Vs 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.”*

Do you love me? 3 possibilities:

1. Do you love me more than these fish? (Do you love Jesus more than what he gives you?)
  2. Do you love me more than you love these men? (Do you love Jesus more than your family and friends.)
  3. Do you love me more than these other men love me?
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> one is most likely the correct one, since Peter was the one that made the bold statement that he would never deny Jesus. He said he would die before he denied the Lord.
  - Jesus first question is “do you love me?” not... “can you serve me?”
  - But when you love Jesus, you want to serve him if you love him
  - Notice Jesus doesn’t ask him about his past; he asked him about his heart in the present.

**Vs 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.”

- We cannot restore ourselves to God by serving our way back into His grace. Rather, he restores us by His love which ignites our love for him...then we faithfully serve him.

**Vs 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.

Q12 Does God know all things?

A: Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.

- The Lord knows everything about Peter and he loved him anyway. Good news is that God knows everything about you and he loves you.
- His commission is love me. The primary thing Jesus is calling Peter to here is to love Jesus – the secondary reality is to serve him. Don’t miss the order: Do you LOVE me, then feed my sheep. Do you love Jesus, or have you replaced serving him for loving him?
- Some of you are neither loving or serving Jesus – you need restoration.
- What could be getting you into this situation?

2. Gladness comes in following Jesus, gloom comes from comparing yourself to others.

**Vs 18-19** *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.”*

- The phrase “stretch out your hands” was shorthand for crucifixion during those days. John explains that to us.
- “The difference between gladness and gloominess: are your eyes on Jesus, or everyone else?”

**Vs 20-23** *Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper 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?”*

Ronald Rolheiser said, "So much of our unhappiness comes from comparing our lives, our friendships, our loves, our commitments, our duties, our bodies and our sexuality to some idealized and non-Christian vision of things which falsely assures us that there is a heaven on earth. When that happens, and it does, our tensions begin to drive us mad, in this case to a cancerous restlessness."

"comparison is the root of most the misery we have in life. An absolute snare to our soul."

### **SOCIAL MEDIA STUDY:**

- Dr. Hunt looked at seven outcome measures including fear of missing out, anxiety, depression, and loneliness.
- "Here's the bottom line," she says. "Using less social media than you normally would leads to significant decreases in both depression and loneliness.
- "Some of the existing literature on social media suggests there's an enormous amount of **social comparison** that happens. When you look at other people's lives, particularly on Instagram, it's easy to conclude that everyone else's life is cooler or better than yours."

Comparison has a flip side when we compare ourselves that seem to be inferior to us, we are filled with a sense of superiority. The people around us become constant reminders of how good we are and how well we are doing. Judgment and pride come in. It makes us have unstable and insecure souls

### **How to combat it?**

**Rather than having an opinion and comparing yourself to others that you instead have compassion for them.**

- We all will stand before God on how we handled and stewarded all we have. Those who have more than you will have more to stand before God more. I'm going to be praying you steward that for the glory of God. Pray from them that they are constantly tempted to love money.
- Do you need to be restored?
- Jesus has two questions:
- Do you love me? Will you follow me?
- Restoration begins when you answer "yes"
- To use Peter's own words, "The God of all grace, will restore and strengthen you."

