

The Passion of Jesus [John 21:15-25]

Application

John 21:15 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.”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.”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.”¹⁸ 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.”

²⁰ 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?”

²⁴ 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.

BI: If you love Jesus, He will give you a _____, which gives you _____ that involves _____.

- Peter –
- John –
- You –

Welcome to Grace: Today was our “Annual Meeting” and next Sunday begins a new fiscal year and a new sermon series (see “Sermon Survey” to give us input on what you want to hear this summer). We hope you enjoyed the Gospel of John. The goal has been to come to know Christ more intimately and to form in you good theology about who God really is:

- 1) That Jesus is the embodiment of God in human form.
- 2) That Jesus was a real flesh and blood person.
- 3) That God the Father remained on His heavenly throne.
- 4) That God the Father sent Jesus on a mission.
- 5) That this mission was Jesus’ passion (to sacrifice that you may live).
- 6) That Jesus was raised from the dead.
- 7) That Jesus wants us to get on mission and tell the story.

This is why we get up on Sundays and worship the Lord. In fact this is why we get up every day. The Lord wants to be your consuming passion, your motivation for living, and to help you by saving the world through you, one person at a time.

Have you ever heard the story of a family that was walking along the beach, and they saw thousands of shiny glimmering specks from a distance and ran to see what it was. As they got closer, they realized it was thousands of fish. The dad hurriedly started throwing fish into the ocean and his kids started helping until one of them said, “Dad, we won’t be able to throw them all back into the sea.” The father paused with a fish in hand and said, “True, but at least I can save this one.”

This is sometimes how we respond to the mission of telling people about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It feels like an overwhelming task. But if we paused and quit, that is one or more souls that would not hear about salvation in Christ. In God’s eyes, each individual soul has enough value that Jesus still would have sacrificed Himself; even if it were only one, even if it were only you. And until you understand your individual value in God’s eyes, you will struggle to be motivated to reach out to try to save even just one soul for Jesus.

Questions: Each of us has been given a task as a result of loving Jesus: What is your task? What responsibility goes with your task? What sacrifices does this require? How do you know this task is from Jesus?