

## Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of April 24, 2022

John 21

Sermon Series: *This is Love*

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Hello Friends. This is our final week in the John series. It has been life changing for me. Thank you for studying, preparing, and leading your group through this wonderful time together.

### WHERE IS YOUR CAMPFIRE?

This chapter has a wonderful scene around a campfire, where the Lord serves the disciples. Where and when was your first 'campfire' with the Lord? How was it similar?

This is intentionally obscure. In our passage, Jesus invite the disciples to time around a campfire. Even if you don't have a 'campfire' memory, we have all had times where we experienced the nearness of Jesus. It could have been at a camp, a worship service, a time in nature. It might have been alone or with friends.

### LET'S LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD, THE SCRIPTURES

We're in the final chapter of "The Gospel of John." We have walked with Jesus through His early ministry, heard His amazing teachings, and seen the signs that reveal that He is indeed the Messiah, the promised Christ. Jesus said that He came to give us eternal life by dying in our place and that He would rise from the dead. All of this has happened and in this final chapter, Jesus will again appear to the disciples. Read through John 21 and consider these questions. (Note: This appearance occurred between the beginning of the second week and the "Ascension" in Acts 1. They are at the Sea of Galilee where Jesus had spent much time with them and where he first called some to "Follow me.")

What happens in this encounter? (Who, what?)

Jesus appears to the disciples. This appearance occurred between the beginning of the second week and the Ascension. At the Sea of Galilee where Jesus had spent much time with them. He is on the shore, calls out to the men fishing, and orders up another spectacular catch. The disciples recognize Jesus and join Him around a campfire where they ate a meal together. Jesus engaged in a serious conversation with Peter that helped him re-engage with his calling and challenged him to trust Jesus with his future.

What do you think was Jesus' purpose(s) in this time with the disciples?

Jesus, post the trauma of his arrest and death and post the resurrection, reconnects with them in their familiar surroundings at the lake, which I believe reminds them of their first call to be "fishers of people." He asks Peter to affirm his love for Jesus (cf. he had denied Him three times) and reminds Peter of his call to "follow me" no matter the consequences or situation.

Why might the disciples have been fishing?

- Waiting for Jesus to meet them
- To earn money for family
- To relieve the stress of the previous days
- Notes: Possibly Peter's boat, they were unsuccessful after fishing all night

Jesus called out, "Hey guys" and suggested that they cast their net to the right side of the boat. (vs. 5-6) Why do you think they followed His suggestion? What memories would this trigger? (See Luke 5:1-5)

This is a logical question but the answers are pure conjecture.

- They might have thought, 'Let's give it one last try. Can't hurt.'
- They might have been discouraged and looked for a distraction.
- They knew that Jesus told them to meet him there (Matthew 28), so why not go to the place where it all started
- Fishermen often think the next big catch is in the next place they cast.

Concerning memories, this is where some of them first dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

Also, something very similar to this happened when Jesus told them to cast their nets (Luke 5).

How would you compare the responses of the disciples to seeing Jesus again?

John, first to recognize Jesus based on the catch.

Peter, eager to see Jesus, girded up and jumped in.

This left the other six to row back dragging the net (300 Lbs.?). They then joined Jesus by the campfire.

Peter dragged the net ashore by himself.

What happened around the campfire? What does this reveal about our Lord?

Jesus served the disciples again. This would have triggered reminiscence of times with Jesus in many places where he served others. Certainly, it would have reminded them of the Last Supper in John 13-16.

Our Lord again showed His love, compassion, care, and call.

What do you notice about the catch of fish? How was this relevant to Jesus' call and their life purpose? (See Mark 1:17; John 1:43. By the way, it was common for fishermen to count their catch.)

Many eye witness details are revealed:

- How the men responded
- The number of fish (153 is not meant to be a significant number. Fishermen commonly counted their fish as they were divided up and for sale)
- That the nets didn't tear
- Who brought the fish to the shore
- Who hauled the net onto the shore
- That Jesus had food cooking and that He told them to bring more

I believe this reminded the disciples that now, their lives were given to following Jesus' call to make disciples, to be fishers of people, and that He was going to be with them and provide for them.

In verses 15-17, the focus moves from the group of disciples to one disciple, Peter. What happens in this encounter? (See also John 13:38) What do you notice about Jesus' questions? What was Jesus' goal?

Jesus does three things:

- 1) He presses Peter three times to have him say out loud that He does love Jesus. This harkens back to Peter's three denials in John 18.
- 2) Jesus reminds Peter of his calling to be a shepherd to God's sheep. (cf. "My sheep")
- 3) Jesus prophesies that Peter is going to die / give up his life serving Jesus, something that Peter said he would do in John 13:37.

Jesus' goal was to restore Peter to his call to be a disciple (follow me) and one who shepherds God's sheep. Peter needed both the affirmation and the recommission.

Jesus used a phrase that means 'Hey, listen up! I'm going to reveal a solemn truth' (vs. 18-19). What did Jesus reveal? How is this relevant to Peter in light of his statement in John 13:37?

Jesus revealed that a day would come when Peter would be killed.

Peter said that he would be willing to die for Jesus.

How did Peter respond to Jesus' prophecy? (20-21) How did Jesus respond to Peter's response? (22) Peter changed the subject to ask if this was true of John. He wanted to know John's future situation.

Jesus told Peter that John's situation was not to be his concern. Instead, Jesus reiterated two times His call to continue to follow / obey Me.

How would you describe the various aspects of Jesus' call on Peter's life? (15-22)

Jesus met with Peter on the shore when Peter swam in. This would have been reassuring.

Jesus asked Peter to confess His love for Jesus in front of the others.

Jesus reminded Peter of His calling to feed and care for Jesus' sheep.

Jesus prophesied Peter's future death in following Jesus

Jesus reminded Peter that what is uppermost of importance was to follow Him

Jesus repeated His command "Follow Me" (Lit. "Keep on following me") and "You must follow me." (19, 22): How do these represent Jesus' purpose for Peter and the resolve that Peter would need?

Again, "Follow Me" is a summary of what Jesus said in John 15. Jesus told Peter that no matters what happens in life, Peter needed to put his complete trust in Him. Peter would need this resolve to obey to the end because his martyrdom was in the future.

How does the author, the Apostle John, conclude His gospel? (24-25)

John spoke as an eye witness to the amazing things that Jesus said and did. This conclusion reminds us of his stated purpose in John 20:31.

## DISCUSS TOGETHER

Have you ever felt like Peter – that you were disqualified or lost favor with God? If so, what helped you feel restored or that the Lord still loves you and/or works through you?

There have been multiple times in my own life when I felt disqualified and out of favor with God. Some of these times lasted for a long period.

What helped me were several things that God allowed and did: a period of brokenness, God sent his people to encourage and teach me, time God's Word – listening and remembering His grace and promises, counsel from wise people, helping me to focus on others, and putting me in places where I could serve and see His good hand.

How is Jesus' call on Peter's life also our calling (i.e. all aspects of verses 15-22)?

This, I believe, is the essential application for all of us: We are called to continue Jesus' ministry to His sheep. We are called to follow Him, follow His mission, and follow His example.

We all face the temptation to compare ourselves with others and their situation in life. Here, we see Peter's comparison with John and his lot in life. How does Jesus speak into this temptation?

The temptation to compare myself or my situation has at times been a stranglehold in my life. Here, Jesus makes it very clear that God has a plan for our lives. Our situations will look different. Each of us should one resolve, to keep following Jesus. This means that our eyes must on Him and not one another.

## LET'S PRAY

- For the suffering people in our worlds (local and global)
- For our global workers, their ministries, their situation
- For our Elders as they love and serve our family
- For our International Friendship Connection team
- For God to work in those who attended Easter services (here and beyond)

I am so thankful for our partnership, our teamwork, and our mutual love for Jesus. May His name be glorified.

Steve