

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 30TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

FISHERMEN (JOHN 21:1-8) REVEALED

This is the third time John shares that Jesus shows Himself to His disciples after His resurrection.

- **John has just written about how Jesus continually revealed Himself as the Messiah, the Son of God, and The Passover Lamb. Now, He reveals His compassion and mission for His followers.**

FISHING

Seven of the disciples had decided to go fishing at the suggestion of Peter. Some may question why they would return to their old vocation after Jesus' instruction in chapter 20.

- **We can only imagine what they were processing mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Jesus doesn't question their motives. Let's not miss the point.**

"YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH"

They caught nothing. Once again, these professional fishermen work through the night without catching a single fish. Then this man on the shore instructs them to cast one more time.

- **When Jesus called them to be disciples, they could still fish, but now, they would need to trust Him for the nets to be full. We should trust Him with our vocations too.**

"IT IS THE LORD"

Their obedience had turned into success. Then, John recognized Jesus. Peter grabbed his shirt and jumped into the water. He wanted to be near Jesus.

- **When Jesus called Peter to be a disciple, He performed the same miracle (Luke 5). Peter told Jesus to go away back then because he knew he was a sinner. This time, nothing would keep Peter from his savior.**

SHEPHERDS (JOHN 21:9-17) HAULING FISH

Six disciples were dragging the net full of fish. Then, Jesus said to bring some to Him. It seems that Peter grabbed the net and hauled it ashore by himself. How?

- **We see power when we are obedient. Maybe Peter acted alone, or maybe he jumped in and helped. Either way, it was obedience that brought effectiveness.**

FIRE, FISH, BREAD

At the shore, there are fire, fish, and bread. Did Peter remember the fire he stood by when he denied Jesus? Did he think about the fish and bread that fed thousands? Did he think of the last meal in the Upper Room?

- **Peter knew the power of Jesus, the brokenness of his own failure, and the joy of forgiveness. What makes us remember?**

AFTER BREAKFAST

After they had eaten, Jesus asked Peter a simple question... three times. Each time, Peter responded with "yes."

- **Much has been written, taught, and extrapolated from this brief dialogue. Our responsibility is to see what Jesus said to Peter and is saying to us today.**

LOVE OF A SHEPHERD

Although different words are used for "love," we must see that Jesus proclaims the priority of love when serving Christ.

- **We, like Peter, will realize the value of service when it is done out of love for Christ. Duty and reward are not eternal motivators and will lead to exhaustion. The power to endure is motivated by love.**

NEEDS OF THE SHEEP

Jesus tells Peter that young believers will need a proper foundation. Then shares that all believers will need protection. And finally, that there is always room for growth.

- **We need to find our place in this process. If we're young, we need mentors. We all need protection, and we all need to keep growing. How will we do this for each other?**

DISCIPLES (JOHN 21:18-25) THE TRUTH

Jesus has just spoken about Peter's life and ministry and now talks about Peter's death. It must have been a shock to Peter!

- **Remember that Peter had boasted that he would die for Jesus. When the pressure was on, he failed. But now, he would know his end and wouldn't fail to glorify God.**

FOLLOW ME

It must have strengthened Peter to hear Jesus say: keep on following me! And he did, after another mistake.

- **As he had done before, Peter took his eyes off Jesus. Peter had been guilty of looking at himself, his circumstances, and now he looks at someone else. It's hard to follow Jesus without looking at Him.**

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

Unfiltered Peter wants to know if John will get to know his future demise. Plainly, Jesus says that it is between Him and John. Peter's job is to follow Jesus.

- **Jesus could have told Peter that John would be poisoned, put in a cauldron of boiling oil then exiled to live a long, painful, and difficult life. We all have problems!**

AS FOR YOU...

Jesus doesn't waste words. He loves Peter and has a plan for his life. A plan that will involve His presence and power through the Holy Spirit. But even Peter would have to keep his eyes on Jesus to enjoy his mission.

- **Jesus doesn't want us to ignore others. He wants us to invest in others. Grow up! Stop comparing and start discipling!**

RUMORS AND TRUTH

John takes this time to set the record straight. Jesus rebuked Peter but didn't say that John would live forever. It was an urban legend.

- **John finishes with the truth that Jesus did so much more than could ever be written down. If you want to know more, read what's available and talk to Jesus yourself.**

OBEY

- God may call us to do something unusual.
- **As we are obedient, we may begin to see His plan.**
- **In our obedience, we will see Him. Will we be obedient? Do we realize that when we see Him, we will do anything to get closer to Him?**

LOVE

- An effective shepherd loves their sheep.
- **Our motivation to serve others should come out of our love for Christ.**
- **Who do you love? Who will you shepherd? God has called us to go, tell, teach, protect, and love in His name. Are we doing what we are called to do for each other and this community?**

FOLLOW

- Jesus' call is simple: Follow Me.
- **Peter was willing but had to surrender to the life Jesus had for him.**
- **We may not know how or when we will die. But, we can know that we are forgiven now and our eternal destination. What will we do to follow Jesus authentically?**