

Home Group Questions

the week of 6/10/2018

John 21:1-19

SAY WHAT? (...THE OTHER SIDE?)

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel spoke on one of the most amazing accounts in the Gospels. The passage reveals to us Jesus amazing sovereignty and power but also His awesome heart for restoration to those who may feel discouraged and defeated.

LOOKING IN THE WORD

1. Read John 21:1-19. This passage gives an amazing look into the struggles that the disciples experienced after the resurrection. Even though they had seen Jesus alive, most scholars believe that their excursion back to fishing was a signal of their feelings of unworthiness in light of their abandoning Jesus at his arrest (as well as Peter's struggle with his denial of Jesus). Talk about the disciples embarrassment over catching no fish. Jesus obviously orchestrated this entire scenario...what does that say about Jesus sovereignty in this world and about our attitude toward obeying him even when the request to throw the nets on the other side would seem like a ridiculous one to the fishermen? What are times in your life when you have sensed that the will of Christ for your life seems to contradict common sense or "worldly advice" yet you felt a commitment to follow Jesus' will regardless? What are some other principles you see in this passage about "obedience"? When did the disciples experience the blessing of the overflowing net....when they decided to put the net back in?...when they agreed they should put it back in?...or when they actually put it back in the water? What does that say about how blessings operate in our lives when it comes to our following Christ?

2. READ 2 Corinthians 1:3-10. Talk about this powerful passage. Paul refers to God as the "God of mercies and the Father of all comfort" yet God allowed His Son to die on the cross for us. How do those titles of God fit with the gruesome experience that Jesus went through for us. How does that instruct us in our expectations as Christians, knowing that some believers seem to have the expectation that if they come to faith in Christ, their problems will be gone.

- Pastor Mel also highlighted our responsibility to share the comfort we have received from God with others (verses 4-6). What does that imply about our attitude during our affliction and our attitude towards the comfort that God offers us during our time of struggle? What does a believer miss out on if he or she refuses to receive God's comfort in their time of affliction?

- Discuss verse 9 in this passage and how it corresponds to another passage in this same book (**read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**). Why is it that we often struggle to learn the lessons that God wants to teach us in our times of struggle and discouragement? What attitudes do we need to adopt and truths do we need to grasp onto in our lives to make us more teachable during our time of struggles and depression?

3. Read Genesis 40:1-41:1. Just when Joseph thought that his ticket out of jail was the restoration of the cupbearer, he had to wait another two years in prison before he had his opportunity to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Discuss the roller coaster experience of Joseph and the times of discouragement he must have had. Is there anyone in your home group who may have a similar set of circumstances in which they were discouraged but, looking back, they can see how the Lord worked it out?

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray that the Lord would give you strength to obey him even in times of disappointment, failure, or discouragement.