

Home Group Questions

the week of 9/8/2109

John 21:1-19

“DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE?”

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the questions of Jesus. This week focused on the question that Peter was asked, “Do you love me more than these?”

LOOKING IN THE WORD

1. Read John 21:1-19. This passage gives an amazing look into the struggles that Peter (and 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 it?...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. Focus on John 21:15-19. Jesus asks Peter “Do you love me more than these?” Jesus is referring to all that was around them from the life of a fisherman (not “do you love me more than these other disciples do?”). Jesus asks Peter three times “Do you love me?”. Remember Peter’s denials....why do you think Jesus asks Peter three times? What does this tell us about the heart of Jesus for Peter and for us when we fail in our walk with the Lord? Jesus used the word “agape” (unconditional love), but Peter responds with the word “phileo” (strong affection). Why do you think it was a struggle for Peter to match the wording of Jesus (remember, they spoke Aramaic but this event is recorded for us in the Greek but clearly there was a difference in how Peter responded even in the Aramaic). Peter was given a job to do by Jesus in this restoration...what was his task and how may have this experience with Jesus prepared him for his task of “tending” and “feeding” the church?

- What lessons can we learn from Jesus here about restoring someone in our lives who has hurt us, or wronged us? Share some insights you may have as to how to best restore someone who has wronged you or hurt you?

3. Read Genesis 40:1-41:1. Let’s talk a bit more about discouragement. The disciples were obviously feeling like failures and had headed back to their lives as fishermen. Think of Joseph in the Old Testament. 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 in a wonderful, often mysterious way?

MOVING FORWARD...

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