

John 21 Sermon Questions

Gathering

1. What is your favorite summer food to eat?
2. If you could swap places with any other living person, who would it be? Why would you want this person's life?

Looking at the Text

John 21 takes place after the resurrection of Jesus. It is over a week since Easter morning and a number of the disciples have returned to Galilee. Peter decides he is going to go fishing and a number of other disciples join him. He does not catch anything but soon after Jesus appears on the shore of the lake. Notice how the disciples seem to know it is Jesus and yet they are not sure. Remember also how Peter behaved on the night Jesus was arrested and tried. His failure is the background for what happens here.

Read John 21:1-14

1. Why do you think Peter went fishing?
2. Jesus appears on the shore but they do not recognize him. He tells them to throw the net over the other side of the boat to see if they can catch anything. Does this sound familiar to you? **Look at Luke 5:1-8** for why it does.
3. How does "the disciples whom Jesus loved" react when they catch all the fish? How does Peter respond?
4. In Jesus' day inviting someone to a meal was significant. It was an act of acceptance and fellowship. What is Jesus doing on the beach when the disciples finally drag the boat to the shore? What is the significance of Jesus' words in vs 12?
5. How do you think Peter felt?
6. Throughout the gospels Jesus welcomed sinners, even notorious sinners to eat with him. In this scene who are the sinners being welcomed?

Read John 21:15-23

1. How many times does Jesus ask Peter if he loves him? Do you think that is significant?
2. What does Jesus tell Peter to do and what do you think Jesus means?
3. What do you think Peter is feeling as Jesus asks him this question a second and third time?
4. In verse 18-19 Jesus talks about Peter's death? What does he say will happen as a result of Peter's death? How do you think Peter felt knowing that Jesus knew we would be faithful from this point on?
5. Peter sees another disciple following. What does he ask Jesus and how does Jesus respond?

Application

1. Peter betrayed Jesus on the night of the arrest. In what ways are we tempted to betray Jesus today?

2. Have you ever felt like God wouldn't forgive you because "you should have known better?"
3. When you pray do you ever take time to ask him to forgive specific sins? Why or why not?
4. Peter was an epic failure on the night Jesus was arrested. But he would eventually be crucified himself for being a Christian. What does that say about the change in him after the resurrection? What does this say about how God can change us?
5. Jesus tells Peter not to worry about what would happen to the other disciple. What do you think we are supposed to learn from this about our own envy and jealousy?