

“Jesus, Peter, and John”

John #62

John 21:15-25

May 19, 2019

Scripture Reading: John 21:15-25

Introduction

- John’s purpose: believe in Jesus’ identity and work
- Big question: What does it look like to truly follow Jesus?

Peter’s Call | John 1:40-42

Peter’s Bravado | John 13:36-38

Peter’s Denial | John 18:18, 27

Hope of Restoration | John 21:7-9

Restored to Service | vs. 15-17

- Do you love me more than *these*?
- R.C. Sproul — My educated guess is that he was asking Peter, "Do you love me more than the rest of the disciples love me?" This is why I think that: Jesus taught that "to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little" (Luke 7:47b). The corollary is true: he who is forgiven much, loves much. There is a sense in which the depth of our affection for Christ is inseparably related to the depth of our understanding of that which we have been forgiven. Peter understood that of all of those surviving, he had betrayed Christ more deeply than the rest. Therefore, in being forgiven, restored, and invited back, not only into the fellowship of Christ, but into the ministry of Christ rather than being dismissed from ministry for the rest of his life for his scandalous transgression he saw the grace of God more fully than the rest.

Peter’s Pride | Matthew 26:33

Do the Greek words show some deeper meaning?

1. Agapeo and phileo are interchangeable throughout John
 2. Peter’s affirmative answer
 3. Other words in this passage change
- Andreas Köstenberger — The fact that agapaō, allegedly reserved for divine love, is used by John for human love, and the fact that phileō, supposedly denoting human love, is used by John to refer to divine love, surely confounds the above-stated theory. It seems that John could use both terms to refer to both human and divine love. Probably he did not use these two words for love with this distinction in mind at all, rather employing them for the purpose of stylistic variation.

Chilling Prediction | vs. 18-19a
Rumors and Questions | 19b-23
It's All True | vs. 24-25

Learning From Peter

1. Peter needed to face his place of deepest shame, and experience even deeper forgiveness.
 - a. John 18 ¹⁸ Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.
 - b. John 21 ⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.
2. Peter was challenged to love Jesus more than anyone else.
3. Peter followed Jesus' example of sacrificial love.
4. Peter had to remain focused on his unique calling.
 - a. D.A. Carson | There is no belittling of either disciple. One of them may be called to strategic pastoral ministry and a martyr's crown, and the other to a long life and to strategic historical-theological witness, in written form.
 - b. 1 Peter 5 ¹ So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
5. Peter had friends who walked with him.

Like Peter...

...have you experienced the grace of Jesus, even in your place of deepest shame?

...are you trying to love Jesus more than anything else?

...are you willing to follow Jesus' example of sacrificial love?

...will you remain focused on your unique calling?

...do you have friends who will walk with you?