

A MEAL WITH PETER

(John 21:1-25)

Before I get into the meat of this, let me Set the Stage with some background info:

At the sea of Tiberias. The third time Jesus appeared to any of his original disciples. This was (Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James and John). Even though all five ate with Jesus, I believe this meal was prepared especially for Peter's benefit for he was feeling a bit unworthy (Maybe this message is for you, but all can partake.) This is where **Jesus showed Peter how to Fish Again.** Let's begin

Joh 21:3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

I. **PETER WAS FEELING UNWORTHY OF HIS CALLING** Paul often admonished the Church to walk worthy of their calling (Eph 4:1, Col 1:10, 1 Th 2:12)

A. **He had returned to his former life**, "I go a fishing" (4 followed him). How quickly we give up when we feel incapable or unfit for the job that Christ has given us: Peter was to be given the keys to the kingdom.

1. He had denied Christ 3 times (Mt 26:75).
2. He had wept bitterly when the cock crowed (Lk 22:62)
3. He was slow to believe the resurrection - He saw the empty tomb and heard the testimony of the women.
4. The reality of the resurrection had made him feel even more unworthy. He could have forgot about the ministry if Christ did not rise. But, now, it was eating at him.
5. He returned to his old life and had heard the words of Christ, "**No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**" (Luke 9:62)

B. **Jesus went to Peter to call him back (Consider the similarities between his call at lake of Gennesaret (Luke 5) and his recalling at the sea of Tiberias (John 21).**

1. In both cases they had fished all night and caught nothing.
2. They obeyed the word and caught a multitude of fish.
3. Peter felt unworthy to be in Christ's presence. He fell on his knees at the lake saying, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

(Luke 5:8) And, he was naked and jumped in the water when Christ called from the shore of the sea of Tiberias.

4. Jesus reassured Peter at the lake, "Fear not, from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And, they forsook all, and followed Jesus." (Luk 5:10-11).

Mat_4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Mar_1:17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

C. **Feelings unfit?** It can hold you back. It can make you flee from the presence of the Lord.

D. At the sea of Tiberias Christ also come to reassure Peter. Except there was one big difference. Jesus already had supper read (He cleaned the fish, built a fire, cooked them and had bread). **Come and dine the master calleth, come and dine....** "bread and fish upon the fire (Joh 21:9).

Transition: Must of been good fish cause they let their eating stop their mouths. But, when they had had their fill, this is when Jesus began to teach.

II. THE LESSON AFTER DINNER

Joh 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

Joh 21:16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Joh 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

For the moment let's not focus on the lambs and sheep. Let's focus on the obvious question in verse 15: What or Who is "These"

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A. Peter do you "love me more than these?"

1. **The Fish?** - Peter had returned to fishing and loved fish. But, not more than Jesus. (**Some do love things more than Jesus**)
2. **Peter had thought he loved Jesus more than the other disciples. His problem was pride.**

B. We need to Understand Pride:

Rom_12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

1. A low self image can be mistaken for humility.
2. Confidence (faith in God) can be mistaken for pride.
3. Thankfulness can also be mistaken for Pride. All pride is not bad.
4. Pride is when we have an incorrect image of ourselves: low self image or arrogance (center of the universe)
5. God helped Peter get a better self image by telling him he would make him worthy. Somehow Paul has inflated his image or ego by thinking he loves Jesus more than the others.

Pro_16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

C. Jesus knew that Peter loved him (John): What else did Jesus know about Peter? He knew Peter would deny him, “***Satan has desired to have you so he can sift you as wheat, but I prayed for you that your faith fail not. But, when you’re converted, strengthen the brethren.***”(Luk 22:31)

1. But Peter said, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.” (Luke 22:31-34)
2. He would lay down his life for Jesus (Jn 13:37)
3. He claimed all the other disciples would be offended but not me, he said. (Mar 14:29)
4. Even after being rebuked by Jesus, Peter returned the rebuke: Mark said he “spake more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all. (Mar 14:31)

D. This Dinner was the beginning of Peter’s Conversion.

1. Peter would discover his weakness was his pride.
2. Peter grieved when Jesus asked him 3 times if he loved him. Why because he grieved when he denied Jesus 3 times.
3. This would lead Peter to Pentecost to wait for the power from on high.

- a) The power from on high to witness with boldness.
- b) To do all things thru Christ which strengthens us.
- c) To eventually give his life for the gospel (crucified upside down)

Joh 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

Joh 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

CONCLUSION: Peter began to walk with Jesus from the table, but he turned to notice John following:

Joh 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? (John was humble enough to know any one of them could have)

Joh 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

Joh 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, **what is that to thee? follow thou me.**

- A. It's not about how we stack up or measure up against others - It's about how much we love them. If you love Jesus feed his lambs.
- B. Recognize your own weaknesses, bear the infirmities of the weak and feed His sheep.
- C. It's not about how worthy you are, but how forgiving Christ is. Jesus ate with sinners. If you're a sinner like Peter don't flee from His presence.
- D. Trust Christ to make you what you ought to be - But, feed his Sheep.