

Do You Love Me? John 21:15-19

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

1. This encounter with Jesus happened after his resurrection. John 20:1-10

- Jesus had already appeared to Mary Magdalen & twice to his disciples. John 20:11-29
- In many ways, it would have made sense to end the Gospel of John with those stories. See John 20:39-31

2. This encounter with Jesus is primarily with Peter (with the other disciples watching).

- Peter was born with the name 'Simon, son of John'. Jesus gave Peter his new name. John 1:40-42
- 'Peter' is translated from Greek *Petra*, and Aramaic *Cephas*. (Peter's brother, Andrew, was also a disciple.)

SOME WAYS WE SEE JESUS RESTORING PETER...

1. Replaying a story from Peter's life... John 21:1-6; Luke 5:1-11

- Peter was a fisherman. His nets were coming up empty.

→ Jesus: I will meet you at the place where your nets come up empty.

2. Revisiting Peter's sin and shame at denying Jesus 3 times.

- Mark 14:26-31. Jesus: You will all fall away. Peter: 'Even though they all fall away, I will not.'
- After Jesus was arrested, Peter denied he was a follower of Jesus 3 times. See John 18:17-18, 25-27
- They meet again over a charcoal fire. Ref. John 18:18

→ Jesus intentionally revisits Peter's sin and the place of his shame.

- Heb. 12:1 ...for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, scorning its shame
- Isaiah 53:5: He was crushed for our iniquities
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him
And by his scourging we are healed...

- "Shame cannot survive being spoken. It cannot tolerate having words wrapped around it. What it craves is secrecy, silence, and judgment. If you stay quiet, you stay in a lot of self-judgment." -Brene Brown

→ What happened in your life over a charcoal fire?

→ What do you do with Peter's sins and failings? What do you do with your own? With others?

DO YOU LOVE ME?

- All of this shows Jesus' love for Peter. Then Jesus turns it around: Do you love me?

1. Jesus: Simon, son of John, do you love me? v.15, 16, 17

2. Feed my lambs... Tend my sheep... Feed my sheep. v.15, 16, 17

3. You *will* die for me. v.18-19

"Write what you will, I shall not relish it unless it tells of Jesus. Talk or argue about what you will, I shall not relish it if you exclude the name of Jesus. Jesus to me is honey in the mouth, music in the ear, a song in the heart."

-Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153 AD)

"Nothing is more certain, than that a general profligacy and corruption of manners, makes a people ripe for destruction. A good form of government may hold the rotten materials together for some time, but beyond a certain pitch, even the best constitution will be ineffectual, and slavery must ensue.... What follows from this? That he is the best friend to American liberty, who is most sincere and active in promoting true and undefiled religion, who sets himself, with the greatest firmness, to bear down profanity, and immorality of every kind. Whoever is an avowed enemy to God, I scruple not to call him an enemy to his country."

-Rev. John Witherspoon, excerpt from sermon given at Princeton on May 17, 1776 called "The Cause of Justice, of Liberty, and of Human Nature."