

Jesus Changes Everything - Pastor Sally Henien - April 11, 2021

Sermon Summary:

God is on a mission to redeem and restore all of creation back to Himself. All throughout the Scriptures, we see God's love in action as he intentionally engages people, restores their brokenness, heals the sick, and helps lead people into personal relationships with the Father through Him. Pastor Sally took us through a journey through scripture as we looked at Jesus' life with the disciples after He rose again from the dead and started to appear to the disciples in His resurrected body. She helped us understand that John 21 is a beautiful passage of scripture that demonstrates Christ redeeming the past while calling us forward into His mission and purpose for our life.

- 1) Jesus is our provider and source of life (John 21:6-7)
- 2) Jesus welcomes us into His presence where we are forgiven and free from guilt and shame. (John 21:9-12)
- 3) Despite our failures, Jesus restores our purpose and hope for the future. (John 21:15-17)
- 4) Jesus is inviting YOU to follow Him and the Make Him known. (John 21:22-23)

Closer Look:

Before Jesus was crucified on the cross, He told the disciples that one of them would deny Him before a rooster crows 3 times. During that moment, Peter immediately speaks out and says that he would never do such a thing. In John 18:18, Peter does the very thing he vowed to never do - he denies Jesus 3 times. At that moment, Peter is overwhelmed with shame, guilt, and sadness because he just failed - big time! Peter is now left with the weight of this failure and carries it with him for days and days. This leads us to John 21.

In John 21, Jesus appears to the disciples for the third time in His resurrected body. Throughout John 21, Jesus is recreating familiar patterns we have seen before in Luke 5 such as feeding people, asking the disciples if they "caught any fish," instructing them to "cast their nets on the other side of the boat," sitting together around a charcoal fire, along with many other examples. These recreated patterns are intentional and point back to when Jesus first called the disciples to Follow Him in the beginning of Jesus' ministry on earth. Why? Jesus is reminding the disciples of their past - not to shame or condemn them - but to restore, heal, and address the sin in their lives so that they may be free to live out the calling God has destined for them to accomplish through His power.

The disciples were told by Jesus to wait in Galilee for his return (Matthew 26). While waiting, Peter decides to go back to fishing and the rest follow. (John 21:3-4) This action of going back to fishing is more than wasting time as they wait for Jesus to appear, rather, the disciples, especially Peter, no longer believes that He is capable of living out His Gods given calling of being a fisher of men, the "Rock" on which Jesus is going to build His church. Peter is letting his greatest failure - Peter denying Jesus 3 times (John 18) - define and control the way he sees his identity and purpose in life. Peter no longer feels like he is cut out for his purpose or good enough to serve God/ make a

difference in the world. So, he goes back to what is familiar - his "professional career" - and comes up with His own life plan by going fishing.

Throughout this passage, Jesus is reminding Peter that even though he failed and is experiencing feelings of guilt and shame, Jesus is still welcoming Him back into a loving relationship with Himself and still believes that God will accomplish His purpose through Peter. God does not give up on Peter.

- What stood out to you from Sally's message?
- Can you relate to Peter at all? Why or why not? Share
- Have you ever felt like you were not good enough after you failed, let someone down, etc? How did you react? Where did you turn? Did you "go back to fishing?"
 - Charcoal Fire: How do you think Jesus would want you to feel/process your past hurt, shame, guilt? (Read John 21:9, John 18:18, and Isaiah 6:6-7)
 - What is 1 step you can take towards healing?

John 21:15 -17, Jesus asks Peter do you love me three times. The first two times, Jesus asks Peter "Do you love 'agape' me?" *Agape* is the Greek word for love that means unconditional love. Peter replies to Jesus and says I *phileo* you. "Phileo" in Greek word for *brotherly love*. Instead of rebuking Peter for not loving Him (agape) the third time Jesus asks the question is beautiful because He meets Peter where he is at by asking this: Peter, do you "*phileo*" me and Peter is grieved. Jesus is so loving and meets us all in their brokenness and wants to heal our hearts.

- Why do you think Peter was grieved? What does this show us about Jesus' heart for us in the midst of our failure and doubt? How does this impact your life today?
- Have you ever felt like you were not worthy of being loved but Jesus revealed to you His love to you in a profound/intimate way? Share
- Is there a place you don't feel forgiven or free from guilt?
- Do you need to forgive a person, yourself, or receive forgiveness from Jesus?

John 21:22-23

Peter is so concerned about what John is going to do with His life, when Jesus asks Peter to "Follow Him." Jesus corrects Peter and reminds him that his responsibility is to respond and obey what God is calling HIM To do - not to compare himself to what others are doing around him.

- Do you get distracted by other peoples callings, families and fall into comparison? Does this hinder you from Following God with your whole heart, mind, soul, and strength?
- Spend time in prayer as a group.