

November 17, 2019am – Walking With Jesus (Gospel of John)

Pt. 40– John 21:1-25 “From Disillusionment to Direction”

YouTube Video The Gospel of John <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47OkuvT5JFo&t=218s>

Over the last few weeks we have seen a transformation in the lives of the Followers of Christ in light of the Resurrection of Jesus...

- ✓ From Confusion to Celebration
- ✓ From Fear to Faith

Today we add the third and last Transformation

- ✓ From Disillusionment to Direction

We will focus on these two main points:

1. Our Identity
2. Our Activity

The story opens with the Disciples in Galilee. They were told to go there by both by both an angel, and Jesus Himself.

We go the Gospel of Matthew 28:5-10 (to get all the details)

⁵ But the angel told the women, “Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here! For He has been resurrected, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell His disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead. In fact, He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see Him there.’ Listen, I have told you.” ⁸ So, departing quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, they ran to tell His disciples the news. ⁹ Just then Jesus met them with a joyful greeting!” They came up, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus told them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see Me there.”

They knew where to go, but they seemed disillusioned and directionless when they got there. They had simple faith to go, but not sufficient faith to wait.

Read this poem and see its application

“And God Said If”

If you never felt pain, Then how would you know that I’m a Healer?	If you never were broken, Then how would you know that I can make you whole?
If you never went through difficulty, How would you know that I’m a Deliverer?	If you never had a problem, How would you know that I can solve them?
If you never had a trial, How could you call yourself an overcomer?	If you never had any suffering, Then how would you know what I went through?
If you never felt sadness, How would you know that I’m a Comforter?	If you never went through the fire, Then how would you become pure?
If you never made a mistake, How would you know that I’m forgiving?	If your life was perfect, Then what would you need me for?
If you never were in trouble, How would you know that I will come to your rescue?	

None of us look forward to difficulty. We often find ourselves in a state of disillusionment. That’s where we find Peter and the other Disciples.

Our focus for the remainder of the message will be on Peter and his interaction with Jesus. In this interaction we see that Peter discovers His Identity and His Activity.

Once Peter Accepts His Identity it Gives Clarity to His Activity!

We see Peter move from Disillusionment to Direction.

This is a message about Restoration and Transformation.

We discover with Peter that there is '*more mercy in God, than sin in us*'. (Richard Sibbes)

Behind this story lies a wonderful, liberating, hope-filled truth: ***Failure is an event, not a destiny***. This is good news because we all fail sooner or later, and if we are honest, we all fail over and over again. As Peter's story abundantly proves, it's not our initial failure that ruins us. It's what happens next that matters.

Failure doesn't mean you have blown everything. It means you have some hard lessons to learn.

It doesn't mean you are a permanent loser. It means you aren't as smart as you thought you were.

It doesn't mean you should give up. It means you need the Lord to show you the next step.

It doesn't mean that God has abandoned you. It means that God has a better plan.

Only those who have greatly failed will truly appreciate this story. If you have only failed in small things, then you will not be deeply moved. But if you have known the shame of large failure, then listen up. This story is for you. When we have failed, especially when we have failed those we love the most, our mind becomes a swirl of emotions—Embarrassment . . . Anger . . . Fear . . . Shame . . . Despair. *We feel dirty and unworthy because we acted foolishly.* When we have hurt someone deeply, we want to know if they still love us or have we blown everything? Will they ever forgive me? Can I ever forgive myself?

Aren't you glad that "*there is more mercy in God, than sin in us*". God is bigger than our failures and disillusionment.

Let's take a quick look at the Restoration And Transformation of Peter reveals.

1. Our Identity (we are not failures, we are forgiven and loved) and empowered)
2. Our Activity (We are empowered to Follow Jesus)

A. We are Fishers of Men – Obey Him

John 21:1-8... *After this, Jesus appeared again to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. He manifested Himself in this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called "Twin"), Nathanael from Cana of Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of His disciples were together. ³ "I'm going fishing," Simon Peter said to them. "We're coming with you," they told him. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ When daybreak came, Jesus stood on the shore. However, the disciples did not know it was Jesus. ⁵ "Men," Jesus called to them, "you don't have any fish, do you?" "No," they answered. ⁶ "Cast the net on the right side of the boat," He told them, "and you'll find some." So they did, and they were unable to haul it in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Therefore the disciple, the one Jesus loved, said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tied his outer garment around him (for he had removed it) and plunged into the sea. ⁸ But since they were not far from land (about 100 yards away), the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish.*

Fishing and fisherman is a main theme in the Bible and among Jesus' followers.

Mark 1:14-18... ¹⁴ *After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the good news of God:*

¹⁵ *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!"*

¹⁶ *As He was passing along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Follow Me," Jesus told them, "and I will make you fishers of men!" ¹⁸ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.*

The key concept here is Obedience. In the John 20 passage the disciples obeyed Jesus' words to "***Cast your net on the right side of the boat***" (vs. 6). This was a simple request, yet given by a stranger (at that moment) to a group of seasoned fisherman. We don't know what might have gone through their mind at first, but the outcome was that they Obeyed! And there was great success.

In essence Jesus was reminding and recommissioning His Disciples to be "Fisher's of Men" (Mark 1:17).

It is interesting to note that "the phrase was not invented by Jesus; it had been used for years by the Greek and Roman teachers. To be a 'fisher of men' is that day meant to seek to persuade people and 'catch' them with the truth". (Warren Wiersbe. The Bible Expository Commentary: John. P. 396)

NEXT:

B. We are Shepherds – Love Him, Love People

John 21:9-18...

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. ¹⁰ “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus told them. ¹¹ So Simon Peter got up and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish—153 of them. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² “Come and have breakfast,” Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said to Him, “You know that I love You.” “Feed My lambs,” He told him. ¹⁶ A second time He asked him, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” “Yes, Lord,” he said to Him, “You know that I love You.” “Shepherd My sheep,” He told him. ¹⁷ He asked him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved that He asked him the third time, “Do you love Me?” He said, “Lord, You know everything! You know that I love You.” “Feed My sheep,” Jesus said. ¹⁸ “I assure you: When you were young, you would tie your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where you don’t want to go.”

Jesus transitioned from a ‘Fishing’ theme to a ‘Shepherd’ them. This transition took place around a charcoal fire, much like the one when Peter denied Jesus at His trial in the Jewish Courtyard. Jesus leads Peter to understand that his identity was not only as a Fisherman, but also a Shepherd.

We are called to “Fish for Men’ but we are also called to ‘Shepherd’ and care for them.

In this section we see Jesus question Peter three times about his love and loyalty for Jesus. (This is an obvious correlation in regard to Peter’s denial of Jesus three times in the courtyard).

The Key take away from this restorational and transformational moment is that Jesus wants us to realize that **LOVE is the true characteristic**, both of a “Fisherman’ but also a ‘Shepherd’.

What lasting and genuine results can occur if we just Obey, but not Love. Obedience must be motivated and sustained by LOVE. Love for Jesus, but also a love for one another.

Lastly,

C. We are Disciples – Follow Him

John 21:19-25... *After this, Jesus appeared again to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. He manifested Himself in this ¹⁹ He said this to signify by what kind of death he would glorify God. After saying this, He told him, “Follow Me!” ²⁰ So Peter turned around and saw the disciple Jesus loved following them. That disciple was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and asked, “Lord, who is the one that’s going to betray You?” ²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord—what about him?” ²² “If I want him to remain until I come,” Jesus answered, “what is that to you? As for you, follow Me.” ²³ So this report spread to the brothers that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not tell him that he would not die, but, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?” ²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if they were written one by one, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written.*

In the New testament there are at least Twenty-Two (22) instances where Jesus told His Disciples to ‘FOLLOW ME’

An authentic and genuine follower, Disciple of Christ OBEYS, LOVES & FOLLOWS.

Our Identity in Christ reveals to us the Activity that we should participate in.

We are to be Authentic & Genuine reflections of Jesus Christ. In our thoughts, words and actions.

The bottom line is that if we want to fulfill God’s design for our lives, we must ‘conform to the Image of Christ’.

In conclusion we can confidently move from

- ✓ From Confusion to Celebration
- ✓ From Fear to Faith
- ✓ From Disillusionment to Direction

Based on Identity & It's Corresponding Activity

We Are Fishers of Men – Obey Him

We Are Shepherds – Love Him, Love People

We Are Disciples – Follow Him

The question is ...Are you Authentically & Genuinely **OBEYING, LOVING AND FOLLOWING JESUS.**

(The Three point outline is taken from Warren W. Wiersbe. The Biblical Exposition Commentary. pp396-400)