

JOHN

Chapter 21

Note from Kathy

Words like commitment and devotion are used flippantly in our day. We often hear someone say they are committed to a diet or devoted to their favorite college team. And, yet, we see them waiver when a dessert menu is handed out or if their team hits a slump. The commitment and devotion our Lord desires of us is so much more than a fleeting promise of loyalty. It is love and sacrifice. Can we really say we love Jesus if we are unwilling to sacrifice and remain faithful? How far did His love extend?

John 21:4-7

“Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵He called out to them, ‘Friends, haven’t you any fish?’ ‘No,’ they answered. ‘He said, ‘Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.’ When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’”



Observation

1. In John 21 we read that the disciples have returned to the area of Galilee. John tells the reader that seven disciples were present that day. As best you can list the seven disciples mentioned in John 21:1.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
2. They have returned to Galilee where several of the disciples had once made their living before following Jesus. What do we find them doing?

Were they successful?
3. In the early morning hours a man called out to them from the shore. Did they immediately realize who was speaking to them?

John 21:15-17

"When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.' ¹⁶Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.' ¹⁷The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

John 21:25

"Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I supposed that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

4. The man on the shore makes a suggestion, "throw your net out on the right side of the boat." When they followed these instructions there were so many fish caught in their net that scripture said they could not haul the net into the boat. John immediately recognized that it was Jesus on the shore. What did Peter do when John said it was Jesus on the shore?
5. Jesus already had a fire going with fish roasting and bread prepared for them. He invited them to come and eat. When they finished eating, Jesus turned to Peter and asked him a series of three questions. Look at verse 15-17 and fill in the text below.
 - a. "Simon son of John, _____?
Feed my _____."
 - b. "Simon son of John, _____?
Take care of my _____."
 - c. "Simon son of John, _____?
Feed my _____."
6. How did Simon answer Jesus each time?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
7. Jesus went on to tell Peter that he would serve him for many years, but at the end things would be very difficult. What did Jesus tell him the end of his life would be like?
8. After Jesus told Peter what his future would hold, Peter looked over and saw John. What question did Peter ask Jesus next, and what is Jesus' response?
9. Are there details about Jesus' incarnation, life, death, resurrection or ascension that we do not know about? Refer to verse 25.

Application

1. When the disciples returned to the region of Galilee to wait on Jesus to appear to them, how did they keep busy?

Have you ever felt Jesus is calling you but you are not clear on your assignment, so you are waiting?

What will you do in the meantime? There is nothing wrong with the meantime activities. Just so we are listening when Jesus speaks to us.

John 18:17, 25-27

"You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. ²⁵Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, 'You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?' He denied it, saying, 'I am not.' ²⁶One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him. 'Didn't I see you with him in the garden?' ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow."

2. The disciples had been out fishing all night. These are experienced fishermen who come from a family line of experienced fishermen, so the fact that they had caught nothing should make us pause and consider what lesson we might glean from this event. These men were not doing something wrong, but they were doing what they thought was best and following their own direction. What difference did it make when they followed Jesus' instructions?

What lesson can we glean from this event?

3. How many times had Peter denied Christ? Read John 18:17, 25-27. Peter had not forgotten these events. Why do you suppose Jesus asked him three times about his love?

What great work and purpose was Jesus about to assign to Peter that would require complete devotion?

Are your past failures haunting you and hindering your service for the King?

Jesus died so that we might have forgiveness and restoration. Is there something you would like to talk to him about right now?

John 21:20-22

"Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is going to betray you?') ²¹When Peter saw him, he asked, 'Lord, what about him?' ²²Jesus answered, 'If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is it to you? You must follow me.'"

4. Jesus did not want Peter to be unaware of what would happen. He told him in advance of the difficulties he would experience at the end of his life. The truth is life is not always going to just get better and better. Sometimes things are going to get worse. Those who accomplish much for the kingdom will often suffer great persecution from the world. In verses 20-22 Peter asked Jesus what John's life would be like. Jesus told him that it was not his concern. Peter had all he could do to finish his race strong and well. It is easy to get caught up in comparison sometimes. Why me again Lord? Why do bad things just seem to come my way?

Have you ever wanted to ask the Lord about another person? Do you ever wonder why your boat or a loved ones' boat of suffering always seems to be so full? What has your focus and attention today?

Matthew 28:16-20

"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go, ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Which claims more of your attention, your difficulties or your all powerful and amazing God?

5. Jesus wanted a total commitment from Peter. He was about to entrust him with what was most precious to him. What has the Lord placed in your care?

Are you totally focused on doing the best you can, for as long as you can? What has God called you to do?

6. Jesus gave his disciples an on-going assignment to continue after he was gone. What was their assignment? For further clarity, you might want to read Matthew 28:16-20.
7. What personal application did you make from what you have read this week?

How has the Lord been speaking to you? Share it with your group.

8. The Bible is His-story. It is the story of God's dealings with his creation. What have you learned about God in the gospel of John?