

OCC LifeGroups

John 21:1-17

Synopsis of Sermon

Peter and his brother, Andrew, were fishing on the Sea of Galilee when this new teacher named Jesus called them to leave their nets and follow Him (Luke 5:1-11). After following Jesus for three years and watching Him crucified we now find Peter back where it all began. In John 21:1 Peter, along with 6 other disciples, were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus once again appears to them from the shore and calls out to them. Jesus directs them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. They obey and catch a massive 153 fish. This affirms to the disciples that it was Jesus who was calling out to them. Peter immediately jumps into the water and comes to shore. What proceeds is one of the greatest question and answer dialogues in the Bible.

Jesus had prepared a meal of fish and bread over some hot coals on the shore. This was a very typical meal during this time. The hot coals must have brought back memories for Peter. The last time he saw Jesus around hot coals was when he denied Him three times (John 18:18; 25-27). Jesus proceeds to ask Peter three times if he loves Him, and three times Peter affirms his love. Instead of using the name Peter, Jesus calls him Simon son of John. This was Peter's official name before Jesus changed it as recorded in Matthew 16:18. It was Simon son of John who was a fisherman by the Sea of Galilee, but it was Peter who was to be the Rock on which Jesus would build the Church. In essence Jesus is asking Peter who he is going to be. Is he going to be a fisherman or a disciple? Peter failed in denying Jesus but was restored in affirming his love. Failing, being restored and deciding to follow Jesus can describe all of our lives.

Icebreaker

Best breakfast you ever had. Where? With Whom? Why?

Study Questions

If your group has not already done so before, what is the 'Coles notes version' of what brought you to Jesus? What was it about Jesus that caused you to want to change your life and live for Him?

Why do you think several of Jesus' disciples went fishing?

What caused the beloved disciple to tell Peter that it was Jesus on the shore? Why do you think Peter jumped out of the boat and swam to shore?

Jesus and Peter have a Q&A session that is well known. Jesus asks the same question three times, and Peter answers three times. Is the three times significant?

Does it relate to Peter's denial or something else? Why do you think there is this triple interrogation?

What does Jesus say love for Him looks like? What are those who love Him commanded to do?

How has God brought you together with other Christians?

Why is it hard for us to see God working in our lives?

Through what ordinary events in life have you encountered Jesus?

When has God miraculously and abundantly provided for your needs?

When do you experience fellowship with Jesus?