



Sunday, August 30, 2009: Epilogue Part 1: Peter Restored

Scripture: John 21:1-19

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. Through the grace of God in Jesus Christ, God wants to restore and recommitment and send out His people even when we've failed.
2. The full humanity and deity of God are emphasized in this account, where we see the human and supernatural person of our Lord.
3. Peter, James and John were professional fishermen. They had to earn a living, but Jesus comes to these disciples to prepare them to feed the church of God.
4. As Jesus provided them with food, they recognized Him. Cf. Luke 24:30-43.
5. John 21:12. Jesus called them to come and have breakfast. He unveils their calling: to be fishers of men. Cf. Matt 28.
6. In John 13:37, Peter said he was ready to go with Jesus to death, but he caved in when tempted to deny Jesus.
7. Peter uses the word "phileo", brotherly love, in answering Jesus. His was a frail, human love.
8. Jesus asks Peter "Do you love me?" using the term "agape," a holy and selfless love, a divine love.
9. The third time Jesus asks Peter, do you "phileo" me? Peter is grieved because Jesus asked whether he has even this frail, human kind of love for Jesus.
10. To expect perfection from others when you're not perfect yourself is to have a recipe for division and conflict.
11. We must never nurture a notion of a fault-free faith.
12. The Donatists believed anyone who failed under persecution and torture could not be received back into the church. This kind of perfectionism is false and unbiblical.
13. Though Peter failed by denying the Lord to a servant girl, yet Jesus reinstated him.
14. This kind of failure increases our humility and dependence on the Lord.
15. The way of discipleship is the way of suffering and the cross.
16. Peter's denial is canceled by a threefold commission: feed my lambs, feed my sheep, tend my sheep.
17. Peter's calling was a missionary and pastoral calling. Cf. Luke 5:8-10; Luke 22:31.
18. The Church is to be a fishing and a nurturing community.
19. The call of discipleship is more basic than evangelism or shepherding. Jesus calls Peter to "Follow Me," calling him to walk the way of the cross.
20. Elders are to feed and nurture people to equip them for works of service in every area of life.
21. We're being recommissioned, all of us, to minister so that the church of the living God may once again be a powerful transforming agent over the whole earth.

Application Questions:

1. In John 21:5, Jesus calls the men "children". What is the significance of this form of reference?
2. Is God's word still effective and powerful to equip us to go out and bring the claims of Jesus to lost people?
3. The Early Church changed an entire empire. How must we change to have the same impact for Christ on our culture?
4. In what areas of the church is God calling me to advance His Kingdom purposes?
5. What provision was made by the Early Church for the needs of the poor? See Acts 6:1-4.
6. What was Jesus' purpose in ministry among men? What is our pathway to influence in the world? Matthew 20:25-28.