

The Gospel of John – chapter 21

Redefining Greatness

Message outline

- Peter in Acts 2 – Is a rock not wavering not fearful but boldly proclaiming Christ to the nations. [7 weeks after the resurrection – Jesus was with them 40 days – 10 days after his ascension]
 - Peter Addresses the Crowd in confidence and assurance but with a heart of brokenness and authentic humility.

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!
 - Quotes Joel concerning the Holy Spirit
 - We are first hand witnesses
 - Quotes David – That he had predicted all that would happen to the Messiah.
 - "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."
 - People were cut to the heart.
 - Called to repentance & baptism in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin.
- 3000 were added to their number. The church was established in Jerusalem.
- Peter had discovered his purpose – he had finally come to understand true greatness. What others saw on the outside was not what was on the inside. "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."
- Who is the most important man in an organization? – The one who can open the most locks with the fewest keys. The one with the "master" key. The custodian.
- What defines greatness? The world defines it in context to self (gratification – fulfillment – satisfaction- self-assurance) rather than a life of giving.
 - The one who has discovered the Master's key to open the hardened hearts of men.
 - ...when our lives reflecting the great one.
 - Humility & compassion motivated by the discovery of God's love.
 - An issue of Epiphany.

- I am convinced that this journey requires brokenness, failure & disillusionment. Not just an epiphany of Jesus but of ourselves.
- My story – The scrap book – My definition who ever has the most accounts and memories of high adventure. Although I respected and admired my father it wasn't until later that I discovered what my father had discovered. True greatness can only come from our father in heaven. Following his book.

John 21 - Peter and John recognize Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish

¹Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias [*Galilee*]. It happened this way: ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee [*whom Jesus had named the Sons of Thunder*], and two other disciples were together. ³"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. [*Gk. Connotation – "I'm going back to my old life."*]

⁴Early 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.

⁶He 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!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," [*Epiphany*] he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

¹¹Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

- This un-doubtedly must have caused Peter to look all the way back to the beginning of his relationship with Jesus.

Peter's journey to discovering greatness:

- Name changed from Simon to Peter the rock – Jesus sees in us what we generally can't see in ourselves. Our lives are often a reaction to our inferiority.
Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas"
[Peter - Gk. and Cephas- Aramaic = rock]
- Fishers of Men

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

- Healing and miracles – even his mother in law

After called an Apostle – A struggle with coming to understand an upside down kingdom

- Blessed are the poor, the hungry, those who weep the rejected because god will bless them. He will turn it around for those who can see their need.
- Love your enemy
- pray for those who persecute you
- The greatest is the least, servant – The one who is like the child. "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

- Walks on water - a struggle with stable faith – "If its really you"

... beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

- Confession as Messiah - A struggle with knowing but not understanding

"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

14They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

16Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18And I tell you that you are Peter,[2] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Next breath is rebuked by Jesus for not understanding his mission of the cross.

."Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

23Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

- Transfiguration – Struggle with religion / relationship

. 3Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters-[shrines]-one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

5While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

- Washing feet – Peters confusion concerning greatness

6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

8"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

9"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

- Jesus predicts denial – A struggle with self assurance
*Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."
³³But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."
³⁴Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."*

- Peter disowns Jesus
⁷⁰But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.
⁷¹Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."
⁷²He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"
⁷³After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."
⁷⁴Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"
⁷⁵Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

- John 21 – A revelation of self - Another kind of epiphany
 - Of our friendship with God
 - Of our fallibility
 - Of our purpose
 - Of what we will do with our lives when it comes to our Christianity.

¹⁵When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly 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 truly 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."¹⁸

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.

*I tell you the truth, 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."*¹⁹ Jesus said

this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

²⁰*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?")* ²¹*When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"*

²²*Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."* ²³*Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"*

Conclusion

²⁴*This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.*

²⁵*Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.*

- “Go love people” – Build a church that loves people – Of humility and broken people who hunger and thirst for God.
- “Come as you are, you’ll be loved” – reinstating the bumper sticker.