

LESSON 34: JOHN 20:30-21:25
JULY 17, 2019

OVERVIEW

- . Introduction
- . Jesus and the seven – John 21:1-14
- . Jesus with Peter – John 21:15-19
- . Jesus with Peter and John – John 21:20-23
- . The conclusion – John 21:24-25

INTRODUCTION

- . Relation of John 21 to John's Gospel
 - . John 21 is usually known as the Epilogue
 - . First eighteen verses of John 1 are known as the Prologue
 - . Primary emphasis is on the commissioning of the apostles, especially Peter
- . Relation of John 21 to the other appearances during the forty days
 - . The *first* series of appearances all occurred on the day of Resurrection or within the first week in and around Jerusalem
 - . The *second* series of appearances, including today's appearance, occurred in the area around Galilee, sometime after the first series, but before the final appearances back in Jerusalem
 - . The third series of appearances occurred back in Jerusalem just before the ascension of Christ into Heaven on the fortieth day after the Resurrection

IESUS AND THE SEVEN – JOHN 21:1-14

- . Signs of success and sustenance
 - . The sign of success in service of fishing – John 21:1-11
 - . The story is a metaphor of the emptiness of life that can come when one sets out to do their work without trying to be in tune with God's plan
 - . When the seven went out to fish their sole focus was on fishing, not on how God may be at work in that activity
 - . When Christ is allowed to be a part of the plan, a simple tweak in the approach can yield far greater results
 - . This story not only reveals another miracle, further validating the presence of the Messiah, but it also serves as a reminder of how much fuller our nets can be when we listen to the prompting of Christ

- . This story is also used by Christ to remind them that they are now fishers of men and their ministry will be guided by the Spirit of Christ within them
- . Finally, this story reminds us that the source of our sustenance is Christ and that He can and will provide us with the spiritual nourishment we need to carry on His work

IESUS WITH PETER – JOHN 21:15-19

- . This interaction is between Christ and Peter, but within earshot of the other disciples present that day
 - . This dialog was not just for the purpose of lifting up Peter but also to validate his leadership role to the other disciples
 - . Prior to Christ's crucifixion, Peter was arrogant and very sure of himself
 - . He was convinced that he would not betray Christ
 - . After his threefold denial of Christ, Peter lost all confidence and didn't feel worthy of leading Christ's church
 - . He felt the burden of his actions and was having a hard time letting go of them
 - . The other disciples may have also questioned whether Peter was fit to lead
- . The first round of conversation – John 21:15
 - . Jesus intentionally calls him "Simon", his name before Christ renamed him
 - . The name Peter means "rock", stability
 - . At this moment Christ knew Peter wasn't ready to be addressed by that name
 - . The Greek word that Christ uses for love is *agape*, which denotes the highest noblest form of love
 - . Peter replies by using the Greek word of *phileo* for love, which is not as intense as *agape*
 - . Peter's choice of words for love isn't a reflection on his true feelings, rather a sense that his previous actions aren't worthy of using the deepest form of love
 - . Christ knows how devoted Peter is to Him and how deeply he loves Him
 - . Christ also knows Peter is not feeling worthy of this kind of love
 - . Christ's response to "feed my lambs" is not only meant to be a charge but also an endorsement and affirming of Peter's authority
- . The second round of conversation is basically the same as the first – John 21:16
- . The third round of conversation – John 21:17
 - . In this line of questioning Christ changes the version of love to *phileo* in order to mirror the level of humility that Peter is feeling

- . Christ knows it's going to take time for Peter to fully understand his true depth of love for Christ
- . In this third round Peter is also acting somewhat confused and hurt that Christ is asking him this
 - . In Christ's answer He is foretelling Peter of his future martyrdom for Christ
 - . He is reaffirming to Peter that his love is now so deep for Christ that he will now be willing to die for Christ
 - . In fact, Christ is telling Peter he will ultimately have the courage and strength to lay down his life for his Lord
 - . For Peter these were wonderfully encouraging words, not something to fear
- . The threefold line of questioning was also symbolic and used to offset the three time betrayal
 - . The way in which Christ served this up to Peter will give Peter the courage and boldness to lead the church when the time comes
 - . It also reassures the other disciples that witness this conversation that Christ is clearly telling Peter he will lead His church

JESUS WITH PETER AND JOHN - JOHN 21:20-23

- . At the end of this interaction with Peter, Christ begins to move away from the disciples and asks Peter to follow Him
 - . John, who had a special relationship with the Lord naturally started to follow them, closely behind
 - . Peter asks the Lord if John will suffer a similar fate as Peter or will he live to see the Lord return
 - . Christ tells Peter it is not Peter's concern and that he should focus on his own instructions
- . The dialog has special spiritual significance for all Christians today
 - . It's a reminder that we all have our own unique set of life's circumstances regardless of our One faith
 - . We are called to not dwell on the differences, rather to focus on our own situation looking for ways in which Christ wants to use us
 - . We all can and do play a specific role in Christ's mighty plan

THE CONCLUSION - JOHN 20:30-31, 21:24-25

- . The closing verse of John 20 gives John's threefold aim in writing Gospel
 - . They are written in order to be read

- . They are to be read in order that you might believe that Jesus is the Messiah and the unique Son of God
- . Through faith in the Gospel, you receive life through the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- . Confirmation of the reliability of John's witness – John 21:24-25
 - . The reliability of John's witness – John 21:24
 - . The incompleteness of John's witness – John 21:25
 - . John stresses here that he has intentionally not included everything that Christ did
 - . His rationale is that it is not necessary and it would be impractical because it would require several more volumes
- . It's impossible to comprehend the full glory of Christ
 - . The more we study and learn about Christ the more amazing His glory becomes
 - . As we learn to surrender more of our self centered agenda and ego over to Him the greater the fullness of life we receive and the more Christ's glory is revealed us

NEXT LESSON – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019: INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS