

come and see

Week 13: Seriously? The Other Side of the Boat?

John 21: 1-25

Summary

In John 21:1-25, after His resurrection, Jesus appears to some of His disciples while they are fishing on the Sea of Tiberias. They initially catch nothing but follow Jesus' seemingly odd instruction to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, resulting in a miraculous catch. After eating breakfast with them, Jesus reinstates Peter, asking him three times if he loves Him, and instructs him to care for His followers. The chapter concludes with a reminder of the importance of following Jesus and hints at the future of Peter's ministry and death. It emphasizes the call to discipleship and the significance of love and service.

John 21:1-25 offers several insights into the nature of our discipleship.

1. **Obedience and Trust:** The disciples initially fish all night without success but follow Jesus' instruction to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, leading to a miraculous catch. The call to obedience is complex since the disciples don't seem to know it's Jesus at the time of the suggestion. Maybe they were desperate, delirious, or delusional. For whatever reason, they followed. But the result is what causes Peter to recognize Jesus.
2. **Restoration and Forgiveness:** Jesus reinstates Peter by asking him three times if he loves Him, paralleling Peter's earlier denial. Discipleship involves not only following Jesus but also receiving forgiveness and restoration after failures.
3. **Care for Others:** Jesus instructs Peter to "feed my sheep." Following Jesus involves caring for and nurturing others in faith. Disciples of Jesus belong to each other. Discipleship includes responsibility toward fellow believers.
4. **Commitment to Follow:** A disciple is responsible to others, but a disciple also makes a personal commitment to Jesus. The passage concludes with a call to follow Jesus, regardless of the circumstances or the fate of others. This time they know it's Jesus making the call.

Read John 20:1-18.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

For you

1. How do I respond when I feel I've failed in a task or role?
2. In what ways do I express my love for Jesus and others in my life?
3. How can I better support and care for those around me in my community?
4. What does following Jesus look like in my daily life?
 - a. Sit quietly and comfortably. Start by praying for God to lead you and guide you.
 - b. Close your eyes and breathe deeply and slowly.
 - c. With each inhale breath, pray "Spirit of the Christ."
 - d. With each exhale breath, pray "I'm yours..."
 - e. Rest in the presence of the all-loving God. Stay open to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
 - f. After a while, simply end by telling God "thank you" for his ability to revive.

continued below...

For your work

1. What do you think the miraculous catch signifies in the context of discipleship?
2. How does Peter's reinstatement resonate with your understanding of forgiveness and restoration?
3. In what ways can we encourage each other to grow in our faith and service?
4. How does this passage challenge or inspire you to follow Jesus more closely?

For students (questions to have in your 'back pocket')

1. What stands out to you in John 21:1-25 regarding the themes of obedience and guidance in your faith journey? Have you discovered ways to discern Jesus' voice in your life?
2. How do you relate to Peter's experience of failure and restoration? Have you ever felt in need of forgiveness or a fresh start in your life?
3. In what specific ways do you think you are called to care for and support others in your community, as Jesus instructed Peter? How does this influence your actions and

How is this resource working for you? How is God using it to form you? Are there ways we can improve it? How can we pray for you? If you've got questions or thoughts, we invite you to be in touch with us. Send us an email at campus-ministries@bethel.edu

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