

## “God of Second Chances!”

John 21:1-19

John 21:15-17, “When 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.’ Again 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.’ The 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.’ Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep.’”

John 21:5, “He called out to them, ‘Friends, have you caught any fish?’ ‘No.’ they answered.”

Luke 5:1-11, “...Peter fell at Jesus’ feet and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man.’”

Jesus has a way of helping us see the truth about ourselves.

John 21:5-14, “...When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.”

- If you want to receive grace from God, you must be authentic about who you are.
- God will allow us to hide...He will not force us to follow Him.

Question for the Day:

John 21:15, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?”

- Notice what Jesus doesn’t ask – “Peter, do you promise to never fail me again?” “Have you built a large and impressive ministry for me?” “Have you raised much money for me?” All of these are fine and good, but Jesus wants to get to the core of the issue; that which everything else is based upon...do you love me?
- Jesus becomes the vulnerable one...that is the nature of God; He puts His heart on the line over and over again.
- *Fiddler on the Roof*, “Do I love him? Twenty-five years I’ve lived with him, fought with him, starved with him. Twenty-five years, my bed is his. If that’s not love, what is?”...“Then you love me?” “I suppose I do.” “And I suppose I love you too.”... “It doesn’t change a thing, but even so, after twenty-five years, it’s nice to know.”

(1.)

Question: Do you truly love God?

- *John Ortberg*, “When Peter least expects it and didn’t deserve it; Jesus stands by the fire and says, ‘Peter, take a do over, a mulligan. Peter get back into the game.’ The church is a place for people who need do-overs!”

Going Deeper:

1. Reflect upon a time when you chose to give someone a second chance. What emotions did you go through to get to the point of offering them that second chance? Have you ever been given a second chance and if so what did it look like? What truth do you think is found in the statement, “We judge other people by their actions, but we want them to judge us by our intentions?”

2. John 21:1-19 is like a trip down memory lane for Peter. It’s as if every image and phrase is reminding Peter of his spiritual walk with God. Read Luke 5:1-11 and reflect upon what lesson Peter learned during that encounter. What are some of the similarities between Luke 5 and John 21? Read John 18:1-27 and reflect upon the images and words that are revisited in John 21.

3. Read John 21:15, who or what do you think Jesus is referring to when he speaks of loving me more than these? Scholars are not clear about the meaning of this text. It could be “more than these,” means more than Peter’s fishing nets, family, friends and lifestyle. It could have been a reminder of how braggadocious Peter was that he would always be loyal and faithful. Peter is now simply being reminded that everyone is in need of grace and a second chance. If Jesus looked at you today and asked you if you love Him more than “these”; what would your “these” be?

4. In John 21:15, it seems that an important understanding that Jesus is getting across, is that no matter how charismatic of a leader you are, no matter how talented and gifted you are – as a follower of Christ you cannot bear the fruit you are called to bear until you first learn to “love” God’s Church. Last week, Creighton shared that he never wanted us to lose our passion for God’s transformation in our life, for the call we have as Christians in being part of the Body of Christ, for the joy of Christ in our life, and finally the capacity to love. What are some habits, or traits of people that make it difficult for you to “love” the church sometimes? What are some habits or traits in your life that make it difficult for others in the church to love you?

5. At EUM’s staff meeting, we talked about the ability good leaders have to work in and lead teams. Henry Ford stated, “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” What are some ways in which you are connecting and serving together with others at EUM? What are some healthy ways in which you navigate or address the conflict that eventually arises within a team ministry? Love does not mean there are no boundaries or that you have to be frustrated in ministering with others. What are some core values that healthy teams can center on to make sure honor and respect are happening to all participants?

(2.)