



Sermon Discussion Questions
05-10-26

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Sermon Series: 40 Days of Easter
Week 4: Do you love me?

1. ICE BREAKER: Share a memory about a childhood sport, hobby or discipline you were involved in. Did you enjoy it? Were you good at it? How did it impact your view of yourself?
2. Read our Scripture for this week, John 21:1-25:

¹Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ²Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, 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.

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,” 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.^[a] ⁹

When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, 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!"

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

What do you notice, or what stands out to you as you read this Scripture? What questions do you have? How is this appearance of Jesus the same, or different, from the others we have studied?

3. Why do you think Peter and some of the other disciples decided to return to fishing after Jesus' crucifixion? What kinds of thoughts and feelings were they likely experiencing at that time? Especially in regards to themselves, how might they have felt?

4. Read 1 Peter 5:8, "*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*"

Talk about how the enemy was prowling around Peter and the other disciples to look for a way to devour them. Consider how they likely felt shame, regret, and fear as the tools the enemy used against them. What lies were they believing?

5. How have you experienced the devil prowling around like a roaring lion in your life? Do those times come when you are feeling failure or success? What lies do you fall into believing?

6. Now reread the John scripture again ([John 21:1-25](#)), and talk about how JESUS responds to Peter and the other disciples in their lowest moment. When Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him, what is he actually doing?

7. Read [2 Cor. 12:9](#), "*But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*"

What ways does Jesus demonstrate his grace on the beach with the disciples that day?

8. Paste Dale quoted Brennan Manning as saying: "*Jesus expects more failure from you than you expect from yourself.*"

Discuss the implications of that idea. Are you ever disqualified from being on the mission with Jesus? How do you know? (Refer to the 2 Cor. 12:9 scripture above!)

9. PRACTICE: Read James 5:16 together: *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

Use this time to confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed and restored to the mission.