

CHILDREN HAVE YE ANY MEAT?

JOHN 21:1-8

Text: John 21:5

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⁵ Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

Introduction:

In this final chapter of John, we find a portrait of Jesus that is thrilling for the Christian to behold. In these verses, Jesus is revealed as The Friend Of The Fallen.

Notice:

1. PETER'S FAILURE

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹ Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. ⁷⁰ But he denied before *them* all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. ⁷¹ And when he was gone out into the porch, another *maid* saw him, and said unto them that were there, This *fellow* was also with Jesus of Nazareth. ⁷² And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. ⁷³ And after a while came unto *him* they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art *one* of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. ⁷⁴ Then began he to curse and to swear, *saying*, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Before we can see how the Lord restored this fallen preacher, we must first understand what happened to Peter and how he came to be fallen in the first place.

A. The Place

Peter was in the wrong place altogether. In the beginning, Peter had made his boast that he would never forsake the Lord, Luke 22:33-34. Yet, when the time came and Jesus was arrested, Peter, like all the others forsook Jesus and fled, Matt. 26:56. However verse 58 tells us that Peter decided to follow the Lord and see what happened, but that he followed Jesus "afar off." When Peter found himself surrounded by the Lord's enemies, it became hard for him to stand by his earlier boast. Now, he takes the low road and denies that he even know the Lord Jesus, v. 69-74

Essentially, all backsliding begins in the same manner! Instead of staying as close to the Lord as we should, we begin to follow Him "afar off." It may begin as simply missing a few services here and there. Maybe you just stop praying like you should. Maybe the Bible isn't opened and read as frequently as it ought to be. Wherever and however it begins, it will eventually lead to the same place. It will eventually lead you into a backslidden and cold condition! Peter's problem was that he found himself in the wrong place!

B. The Pain

When Peter denied the Lord that night, the Bible tells us that he went out and "wept bitterly." Peter was miserable in his new condition. He knew that he had wronged the Lord. He knew that he had violated something very precious and sacred. He was a miserable man.

So it is with every child of God who decides to walk away from the will of God. You will soon realize that sin brings with it pain, suffering and misery, Pro. 13:15.

Proverbs 13:15

¹⁵ Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors *is* hard.

Gone will be the peace of God and the sense of God's presence. Gone will be His power and that joy in the soul that is worth more than gold. Sin is a thief and a robber! It stils youth and beauty. It destroys innocence and effectiveness. Sin has the ability to make you into a very miserable person!

C. The Price

After Peter sinned, he felt a definite loss of fellowship, peace and joy. He knew that things were different.

I am speaking primarily to those who claim to know Jesus as the personal Savior this morning. We need to

know that when a person decides to walk a different way than the Lord intends that your decision carries with it a very high price tag. If you are saved, then you can expect to lose much when you walk away from the Lord. You can never lose your salvation, but you will feel like you have. You can most certainly lose your fellowship with the Lord. There will be the loss of peace, joy and contentment. There will be the loss of blessings and rewards. Sin is a cruel taskmaster and it will beat you silly. By the way, if you persist in your sin and rebel against the Lord's efforts to call you home, then there is a sin unto death for the child of God.

1 John 5:16

¹⁶ If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

1 Corinthians 5:5

⁵ To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Peter failed and he failed big!

2. PETER'S FOOLISHNESS – REVEALED IN:

John 21:3

³ Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

A. His Choices

After the resurrection, Peter must have assumed that his ministry was over. He had denied the Lord and so he decided to return to the old way of life. I am sure that he might have tried to justify it by saying, "Well, I have a family to support." Whatever the motivation, Peter had been called to forsake all those things and to follow Jesus, Matt. 4:19. The Lord's call had been a call to come and be a fisher of men.

People who are out of God's will always make the wrong choices! They always base the decisions on fleshly motives rather than spiritual ones. This is what Peter did and he was foolish because of it!

B. His Companions

When Peter went back to the old life, he took others with him. These other Disciples weren't as sold out to the Lord as they should have been either! If they had been, they would have been waiting for their marching orders. After all, Jesus had told them to go into Galilee and wait for Him, Matt. 28:10.

Have you noticed that sin loves company? When a person backslides, they usually aren't content to go it all alone and they will try to drag others down with them. You see it in families all the time! One will get cold on the Lord and before long everyone in the family is out of God's will. What a shame it is when we feel the need to drag others into the same foolish pit into which we have placed our self! What's equally sad is the fact that there always seems to be those who are willing to follow the wayward child of God! Why are things this way? Because we like to surround ourselves with people who are on about the same level as we are. If we are right with God, we want to be around others who are right with God. If we are out of God's will, we feel rebuked by the lives of those who are living for the Lord and seek out those who are like we are. Sadly, we will often try to reproduce our spiritual temperature in the lives of those who are close to us. This is merely an effort to make self-more comfortable.

C. The Consequences

Peter and his cohorts fished all the night long and did not catch a single fish! Most of these men had been professional fishermen before they met the Lord and this must have been a devastating thing to have to deal with. They toiled and labored all the night and produced nothing of value.

This is just the way it works for those who are out in sin. No matter what they try to accomplish in their own strength, it always comes to naught! The Prodigal Son found this out as he sat in the pig pen and watched the hogs eat those husks. He couldn't even fill his own belly through self effort! I would like to remind every person in this room that we are totally dependent on Jesus Christ for everything, John 15:5. You can produce nothing of lasting value in your own effort! Some might argue that they have been living a slack Christian life and that they are still thriving and prospering materially and physically. May I remind you that both of those things are temporary and will soon pass away. In the final analysis, all that lasts are those things you do through Jesus.

3. Peter's Friend

John 21:4-12

⁴ But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. ⁵ Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. ⁶ And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. ⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt *his* fisher's coat *unto him*, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. ⁸ And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. ⁹ As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. ¹¹ Simon

Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. ¹² Jesus saith unto them, Come *and* dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

Even though Peter had wandered into sin, he still hadn't gone so far that the Lord had stopped loving him! Peter still had a Friend in a very high place. That Friend made all the difference for Peter and He will for you also.

A. He Found Him (vs. 4-7)

- Peter was forced to admit his failure (vs. 5)

This is the first step in coming back home. There must be an acknowledgment of sin and wrong doing.

- Peter started to obey the Lord again (vs. 6)

He stopped doing things Peter's way and started doing them the Lord's way. This brought success where there had been only failure.

- Peter has a renewed desire to be near the Lord (vs. 7)

He wasn't willing to wait for a more convenient time but went to meet the Lord immediately.

If you are one of those who have wandered away from the Father's house and are presently walking in the far country, then you need to know that you still have a Friend in Jesus. He hasn't forgotten you. He hasn't forsaken you. He still loves you as much right now as He ever has. He just wants you to come to the place Peter came to. He wants you to be willing to confess your sins, begin again to follow Him and just love Him like you ought to. By the way, no matter where you run, the Lord will find you. He will not let you get away.

B. He Fed Him

When Peter, and the other Disciples, reached the shore, they found that Jesus had a fire prepared with fish already cooking. They found there, with the Savior, all the things they needed after being out on that boat all night long. They found food, warmth and fellowship. They found a Savior who loved them and who had all the provisions in place that they needed. Everything they lacked out on that boat, they found when they came to Jesus.

Close:

Some of you have toiled and labored since you have been away from the Lord. You are miserable, there is no peace and no joy in your life and you need to get right with the Lord. Let me encourage you to do so today.

When you do, you will find that He still loves you and that He has all the things you lacked while you were away from Him.