

# JOHN'S GOSPEL: THE MISSION OF GOD

## RESTORATION

### John 21

Q - Is there anything from what you spoke about last week that you were able to reflect on or put into practice? (The theme was faith)

Q - Can you remember anything that struck you from Sunday's service?

This final chapter of John's serves as an epilogue to John's Gospel. It's very likely John decided to add this chapter a short time after he completed his writing in order to clarify the misconception about the relationship between his own death, and Jesus' return. The rumor that John would not die before Jesus' return (21:23) had to be corrected. John also uses this chapter to show Peter's restoration after having denied his Lord 3 times. We see Jesus clearly restoring Peter, ready to be an effective leader in the Early Church.

#### **Please read John 21**

Q - Does anything stand out to you? What questions does the passage make you ask?

Jesus appears again to his disciples in a very intentional way. We're going to spend some time thinking about what we can learn/reflect on about the manner of Jesus' time with the disciples.

Q - What led to Peter's denial of Jesus in the first place? Why do you think Peter did deny Jesus 3 times? What must he have been feeling - before and after?

Q - How does Peter's denial contrast to his bold statements of loyalty beforehand? (Matthew 26:33-35)

Q - What is the significance of the disciples returning to their former occupation of fishing? Why do you think they returned?

Q - Why do you think Jesus chose to appear to the disciples in this particular setting?

Q - What do you notice about the different reactions from the disciples? What might it tell us about their personality?

Q – What is the significance of the meal Jesus has prepared? Why do you think he might have chosen to meet them in this way?

Jesus then spends some more intentional time with Peter, again we're going to reflect on how Jesus chooses to interact with Peter.

Q – Why might Jesus have singled out Peter for this at this time?

Q – What do you think Peter is expecting in his conversation with Jesus? Then compare it to the reality of their conversation.

Q – What does this conversation achieve?

Q – If you could have this one-on-one style conversation with Jesus, what would you want from him? (try to steer away from questions and answers that we might want to ask – more what would you want the conversation to achieve in your relationship with him – intimacy/forgiveness/confidence/reassurance/healing/commissioning)

Q – Peter goes on to be a significant leader in the Early Church, what impact do you think this conversation might have had on his leadership? (What sort of leader would this have formed him to be?)

### **Action**

Q - Do you see any parallels between Peter's journey of restoration and your own experiences of renewal?

Q - How does this passage encourage us to approach failure and restoration in our own lives? (our own failure, and that of others)

Q - How can we extend grace and forgiveness to those who have failed us, as Jesus did to Peter?

Q – Jesus does not underplay the importance of forgiving others, (Matthew 6:14-15) is there anyone in your life that you might still need to forgive? (This may be an incredibly difficult question for some. If you have individuals struggling with unforgiveness you may want to recommend 'Total Forgiveness' by R.T. Kendall)

Q – What are some practical steps we might take as a community, or you could do as a life group, that would live out the truths you have discussed?

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