

That You Might Have Life – Gospel of John

[John 21:1-25](#)

“From Denial to Embrace” – December 12, 2021



Introduction

John was an eyewitness to the resurrected Jesus. We should be thankful that John and the other apostles were eyewitnesses. They have written a true and trustworthy account of the life of Jesus.

What's the purpose of writing this eyewitness account? John 20:31 - It was written so that we might believe. It is a simple reminder that our faith is not based on feelings or news headlines. It is based on the truth of God's word. But it could be difficult to base our faith on the word of a group of apostles who, days before, were afraid, doubting, denying? How can we trust the Gospel record if the apostles who wrote it, blew it?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

Scene One: Jesus feeds the apostles. Vs. 1-14

Scene Two: Jesus reinstates the apostles to feed His sheep. Vs. 15-25

Read & Discuss

1) Read 21:1-14

The Disciples are in Galilee because Jesus told them in [Matthew 28:10](#) to go there and wait – He would appear to them there. They obeyed what Jesus told them to do. Now what? It wasn't clear. We don't know how long they waited, but this particular evening John tells us that they go fishing. They fish all night and catch nothing. Failure can be discouraging and painful.

In these verses, there are peculiar details that John noted because that is what he saw. What does John want us to see?

-Jesus is in control. He is sovereign. Jesus knew they didn't have any fish. He summoned the fish, and the fish obeyed.

-Jesus is the Provider. Jesus cooks breakfast for them. Vs. 9-13

Waiting is difficult. Because Jesus is in control, and He provides, we can wait and not be anxious. We can trust that God will get us where He wants us to go. He is the Good Shepherd. What do we do when we are waiting on God? You do the next thing. Don't try to tackle everything at once.

As you wait for God's direction remember these 4 things:

-Pray [James 1:12](#)

-Go to God's word - the Bible [Psalm 119:105](#)

-Seek Godly counsel [Proverbs 13:14](#)

-Make a decision - do the next thing.

How do you feel when you work really hard on something only to come up empty handed? Do you recall a time when you were waiting on God? What did you do?

Additional Reading: *Matthew 6:25-33; Psalm 23, Psalm 27:14*

2) Read 21:14-25

When Jesus was on trial, Peter was warming his hands by a charcoal fire. He denied Jesus 3 times. Peter felt ruined by His failure, and he cowered in shame. But Jesus doesn't "bench" Peter. He asks Peter three times - "do you love me?" He reinstates Peter to "feed my lambs" and "tend the flock." Jesus is telling Peter and the Apostles what pastoral care should look like. They were to "feed the sheep" with God's word. It is the only word that gives life. ([John 6:51; 63](#)) By themselves, they have nothing to offer a dying world. It is only the life-giving message of Jesus. They've heard it and experienced it.

Five observations for and about Elders/Pastors:

1. Remember, the sheep belong to Jesus. "Feed my sheep." What did the flock cost Jesus? ([Acts 20:28](#) [Colossians 1:20](#))
2. A shepherd must be humble. Every pastor needs the mercy and grace of Christ. You have been forgiven much. Let that guide your leadership.
3. A shepherd must feed the sheep. Feed the sheep with the only thing that gives light and transforms – God's Word.
4. A shepherd leads with God's Word. John 10 - "My sheep hear my voice and follow me."
5. A shepherd must love Jesus. Cultivate your love for Jesus. ([John 4:14](#))

Peter falls into the comparison trap when he asks what was in store for John's future. Jesus tells Peter that it wasn't for him to know. Peter was only to concern himself with following Jesus and doing what Jesus was calling him to do. We live in a world that has a performance based value system. We are hardwired to compare which fuels the seed of envy and can lead you to despair and discouragement. ([Proverbs 14:30](#)) Do you feel hopeless and discouraged right now because of envy? What's the way out? Trust and follow Jesus. When you needed help the most and deserved it the least - Jesus came and died for you! ([Romans 8:32](#)) Whatever you need tomorrow, He will provide! You may feel inadequate to do what God has called you to do, but we can be God reliant!

Can you see yourself in Peter? Do you compare yourself to others? Where does envy show up in your life? Is there anything standing in the way of doing what God has called you to do? How can you cultivate a love for Jesus in your life?

Additional Reading: John 10; Romans 8

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Psalm 40](#) "Behold, I Have Come"