

8/20/23-SERIES- 'MORE THAN' (#12)

PASTOR LEE

Peter
Retreats!

- Backdrop to today's message....water! John 21:1-3 - - After this, Jesus revealed Himself again to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberius (Galilee) and He revealed Himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "we will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
- This all occurs after Jesus had risen from the dead. Background....Jesus had three disciples particularly close to Him: Simon Peter, James and John. Focusing on Peter, Peter was called by Jesus and got to see most amazing things during this 3 year period of Jesus' ministry. Examples: witnessing miracles, hearing teachings, even joining Jesus to walk on water. 3 amazing years culminating in an Upper Room at which time Jesus explains what comes next and offers communion.

Jesus Warns
Peter (and us)
of
Satan's Power!

- In this warm/personal setting, Jesus warns Peter....."Satan wants to sift you like wheat'... (see 1Peter 5:8.....your adversary comes upon you like a roaring lion seeking to devour, etc.) Peter expresses his confidence/willingness to sacrifice himself for Jesus.....other disciples might fall....not me.
- As events unfold, Peter acts opposite his bold declaration, clearly denying Jesus 3 times....and rooster crows... as Jesus predicted. In that final moment, Peter/Jesus lock eyes. Paradox...He was genuinely 'all in' for Jesus.....but as life unfolded, he weakened/melted....horrific moment.
- Story is about Peter but its also applicable to and about us. We all have opportunities to speak up for Jesus....yet, instead, how often...in this secular culture...do we back off/ retreat. We view ourselves as 'all-in' and loving Jesus but we are so fallible and meek.

Be Alert!

Be Bold
For Jesus!

- Back to John's passage/story.... Jesus, after Crucifixion and His Arising, appears to the disciples...tells them to wait in City....until next time He comes upon them with power. But....in V 1, the setting is not the City...its at waters's edge (110 miles away!). Present (in the boat) are 7 disciples including Peter (expert fisherman) whose mind-set must have been so rueful and unsettled. Grasping at old strengths for comfort, endeavored upon a night of fishing (totally unsuccessfully). His feeling: failed Jesus and even failing fishing!

Is Jesus
Here For Us?

- In our own experiences today, we take 'hits' in life...can question ourselves....'is Jesus there for me'? Same mindset as Peter early that morning?

Yes... Rely
on Him!

- John 21:4-14 -Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of the fish. The circumstance made no sense...miraculous (one side of boat versus the other so irrelevant!).

We Need
Him!

- Sometimes, in our own lives....despite our strengths, talents, etc....we fail... nothing works. What a reminder for all of us....that we need Jesus (just like Peter/disciples). And not just for the major issues but for the day to day, hour to hour small stuff frustrations/roadblocks.....Pastor Lee encourages us, in ALL instances (big/small), to rely on Jesus. As He did for Peter/disciples, He wants to be there for us/involved with us. Keep Him fore-front on your heart/mind throughout the day.
- Verse 7-14 - - That disciple who Jesus loved (the writer, John!) therefore said to Peter, "it is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Let us have some breakfast". Now none of the disciples dared ask Him, "who are you". They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and so with the fish. This is now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.
- This must have been very uncomfortable moment for Peter (having denied Him 3x). Just as we, today, have uncomfortable moments re-encountering people who we have disappointed/possibly angered. Pastor Lee relays stories: 1. Brazilian experience and the very comforting atmosphere of experiencing fish dinner at water's edge....and, 2. lakeside re-enactment of today's Passages.
- In this tensioned-filled/awkward moment for Peter, this 'breaking of bread' was significant and would serve to establish an 'ice-breaking' and restorative opportunity. We can relate to this power/effect in our own experiences.

Christ
Revealed!

LOVE JESUS
Unconditionally!

- Verse 15: When they finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, Son of John, do you love me MORE THAN these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." V 16- -He said to Him a second time: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to Him, "yes Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him "tend my sheep." Verse 17- -He said to him a third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him a third time, "do you love Me" and he said to Him, "Lord, you know everything; You know that I love you." Jesus said to him "feed my sheep".
- When Jesu said "MORE THAN", was He pointing at other disciples?.... or, the netful of fish?.....Peter's past success as a fisherman? We don't know for sure. What He IS saying is....are you going to depend on Me?....am I regarded and loved higher than 'these' (whatever 'these' are). In these whole exchange, Peter was professing, aware of his abject weakness, his brotherly (philia) love and finally his supreme, self-sacrificial and unconditional love (agape).- which is what Jesus was crucially asking of him. In that very moment, Jesus restores Peter and does so with a mission statement that He serve others (as should we) JESUS KNOWS ALL AND FORGIVES ALL....for Peter and for us. Does the related 3x question by Jesus connect to Peter's previous 3x denial of Him?

He Forgives
ALL!

Love Christ;

Serve People;

Serve Him!

- When we commit to following Jesus, we are saying....like Peter....I love you so much (MORE THAN anything) that I will do whatever You will for me. In this context, our mission, just like Peter, is to feed His sheep. We fulfill this mission by serving someone(s). In doing so, we are serving Christ first!