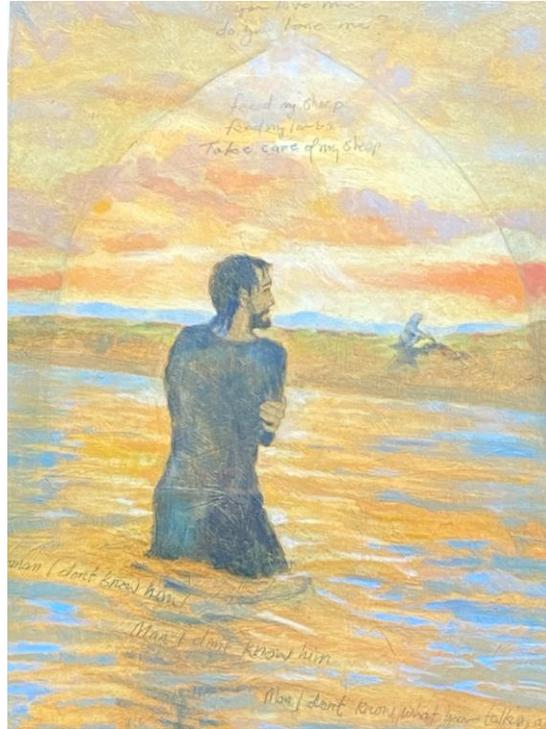


# LESSONS IN RESTORATION

Pentecost #4, John 21:15-25

May 2, 2021



## Beginning with love

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

<sup>17</sup> 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.”

John 21:15-17

1) For John, it begins with the right love (John 3:16; 1 John 3:1-4, 11-20; 4:7-21; Revelation 2:4)

2) “These” are \_\_\_\_\_

3) Peter has already been restored to fellowship, now he is restored to service

## From catching to caring

*Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."*

*Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."*

*Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."*

John 21 (see John 10:1-21; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4 for more on shepherding)

- 1) We know whose sheep we are!
- 2) Shepherding is a verb, and it's almost always plural
- 3) Shepherding is personal. So how do we shepherd well in a season of isolation?
- 4) This is the "seek the lost, disciple the found" version of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

## Peter's story

*Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." <sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, 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." <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"*

<sup>20</sup> Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") <sup>21</sup> When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." <sup>23</sup> Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

John 21:17-23

- 1) Peter pastored and wrote for thirty years with Jesus' hard "truth" (see 1 Peter 4:12-19)
- 2) Only NOW is Peter really able to follow – he left behind his sword and picked up his cross
- 3) Peter won't know John's story, another restoration lesson in humility (and fairness!)
- 4) John is preparing the church for his own death since Peter is already martyred

## **The epilogue for the epilogue**

<sup>24</sup> *This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.*

<sup>25</sup> *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.*

John 21:24-5

1) I can trust John's testimony

2) In this season when restoration is such an important theme – in our families and communities following the pandemic, in our nation after such a divisive election, in our world as restoration and justice are needed to bridge racial divides – what has the church to learn from Jesus and Peter? (Doug's best suggestion: see [Kevin DeYoung's response](#) to *Reparations*)

2) Jesus really is an awesome story, but the story is not finished yet!

*In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all Jesus began to do and teach . . . .*

Acts 1:1

## Resources for further studies in John's gospel

The Bible Project team has great stuff on John at <https://open.life.church/items/179216-john-poster-jpg>

Spurgeon has a sermon on this text which I have included at

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjzy47gw6bwAhXXGDOIHTJtCDkQFjACegQIAhAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.spurgeongems.org%2Fsermon%2Fchs1281.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0PQhl\\_uUCIivSh7f3ge\\_zj](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjzy47gw6bwAhXXGDOIHTJtCDkQFjACegQIAhAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.spurgeongems.org%2Fsermon%2Fchs1281.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0PQhl_uUCIivSh7f3ge_zj)

and another at <https://answersingenesis.org/education/spurgeon-sermons/117-lovest-thou-me/>

J. C. Ryle's commentary on John at [http://www.tracts.ukgo.com/ryle\\_gospel\\_of\\_john.htm](http://www.tracts.ukgo.com/ryle_gospel_of_john.htm)

Deffinbaugh's sermon at <https://bible.org/seriespage/what-thing-called-love-john-211-25>

Here is the link to Kevin DeYoung's discussion of restoration and reparations:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/reparations-a-critical-theological-review/>

I have really appreciated D. A. Carson's commentary in the Pillar New Testament Commentary series (Eerdmans, 1991) and Earl Palmer's *The Intimate Gospel* (Word Books, 1978)

The two resources on our union with Christ are John Murray's *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (Eerdmans, 1955) and Rankin Wilbourne's *Union with Christ* (David C. Cook, 2016). I also recommend Marcus Peter's short study at <https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-union-with-christ/>

John MacArthur's negative take is at <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/SC17-2>

S. M. Lockridge's "That's My King" at <https://thatsmyking.wordpress.com/words/>

Merril Tenney has a helpful paper on the authorship of John's gospel in a four part *Bibliotheca Sacra* series (1963) at [faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted\\_Hildebrandt/NTeSources/NTArticles/BSac-NT/Tenney-LiteraryJohnPt2-BS.pdf](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted_Hildebrandt/NTeSources/NTArticles/BSac-NT/Tenney-LiteraryJohnPt2-BS.pdf)

Robert Mounce's *The Story of Jesus* at <http://media.thestoryofjesus.org/TheStoryOfJesus-download.pdf>

Leon Morris has a short essay on the atonement in John's gospel at

[http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted\\_Hildebrandt/NTeSources/NTArticles/CTR-NT/Morris-JohnsAtonement-CTR.pdf](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted_Hildebrandt/NTeSources/NTArticles/CTR-NT/Morris-JohnsAtonement-CTR.pdf)