

JOHN 21

FISH, SHEEP & MISSION

LET'S START WITH A "WHY" QUESTION—

Why does Jesus show up on Sunday when the disciples are together? Or on the shore when they are fishing? Or, for that matter, why did he show up anyplace that we find him in the gospel accounts? Or, to ask the ultimate question: why did he show up here on earth? In a word: revelation.

No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

—John 1.18 NEW REVISED VERSION

“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

—John 20.21

PRINCIPLE OF “WHY”

- ▶ “Revealing Jesus” is at the heart of “*why we are.*”

Jesus revealed himself . . . (vss. 1a, 1b, 14; cf. 20.19-20, 26)

➔ *“It is the Lord!” (vss. 7, 7b, 12; cf. 20.25)*

“Lord” – a master; deity; Old Testament equivalent: Jehovah

- The first issue of revelation: “Who do you say I am?”
 - What do I know and understand about Jesus?
 - Am I truly following him as “Lord”—as *my* One and Only?
 - What do my actions and words tell others about Jesus?

- The second issue of revelation: Do I proclaim Jesus as Lord?

. . . the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

. . . how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

—Romans 10.8-10

PRINCIPLE OF “WHY”

- ▶ “Revealing Jesus” is at the heart of “*why we are.*”

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. . . . As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

—Acts 4.12, 20

What is the “why” to your life? If you really believe that Jesus is the Lord, then others are hearing and seeing that revelation of Jesus through your life.

PRINCIPLE OF THE NET

He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

—John 21.5-6

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 4.18-20

“ Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

—Matthew 13.47-50

PRINCIPLE OF THE NET

- ▶ We must obey Jesus and cast the net “on the other side.”
 - Jesus has called us to “fish” for the salvation of people.
 - Our net is the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus has instructed us to “catch fish” in all nations of the world.
 - Many people will be where we would not be inclined to fish. We must obey Jesus and cast the net of the gospel on the other side.

The last time we saw Peter engaged with Jesus . . .

Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!” After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.” Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

—Matthew 26.71-75

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

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

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

Then he said to [Peter], “Follow me.”

—John 21.16, 19

“... when Jesus gives to Peter, of all persons, the ministry of shepherding Jesus’ flock, we are to learn that (appreciated) failure (it is called grace or the forgiveness of sins in theology) is once again, apparently the only human or subjective prerequisite for Jesus’s very gracious gift of shepherding his people.

—F. D. Bruner

PRINCIPLE OF THE SHEEP

- ▶ **Love for Jesus is demonstrated in deeply caring for others.**

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1 John 4.19-21



Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness . . . which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. . . . To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

—Colossians 24-29



Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

—1 Peter 5.2-4

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

—Hebrews 3.13

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds . . .

—Hebrews 10.24

. . . not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

—Hebrews 10.25

THIRD SUNDAY OF RESURRECTION

Risen!

IT IS THE LORD!