Lesson 56 – John 21:15-25 Jesus Restores Peter
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(15) When they had 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.

(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."

(17) He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the 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.

(18) Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." (This He said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this He said to him, "Follow Me."

(20) Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned against Him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray You?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"

(23) So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

(25) Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

<u>Think on these things:</u>

1) Read John 13:34-38, then skim over John 18:15-18, 25-27. This may help put into context John 21:15-17. How would you explain what is going on here between Jesus and Peter?

   Peter failed (denied) Jesus three times the night He was arrested. Here, Jesus gives him three chances to verbalize his commitment. 3X for 3X….

2) What meaning would you put on Jesus' specific commands to Peter (i.e., what becomes of Peter's mission)? What kinds of people in our churches should pay close attention to these commands?

   Meaning for Peter? **Feed and tend (care for) Jesus' sheep and lambs.**

   People in the church? **These are commonly adjectives describing the duties of church pastors for their congregations. It also seems applicable to any small group lay leader in a church entrusted with guiding and supervising others, whether young or old.**

3) Verse 19 gives the meaning for Jesus' words to Peter in v.18. Do you know the Christian tradition regarding Peter's death? If you do, explain it.

   Peter is believed to have been crucified in Rome. Feeling 'unworthy' to die as Jesus died, his request to be crucified upside down was granted. Some say his wife was crucified along with him. When he was 'older he was led to his death' as Jesus pointed out.

4) As you read Jesus' words to Peter in verses 20-23, what principle for Christian living can we apply to our lives? Check out 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 14-20, 29 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. In a modern English response, what is Jesus telling Peter?

   Principle? **Each individual Christian is responsible to "follow Jesus" as He calls them. We all have unique contributions to make to Christ's body, the Church.**

   English Response? **In common speech, Jesus seems to say, "Mind your own business, Peter!"**

5) What rumor spread about John after this conversation? History records that John was the last of the original disciples/apostles to die. How and when did he die? (If you don't know, we'll discuss in class.) John wrote the Gospel of John, the letters of 1, 2, 3 John, and the last book of the Bible, Revelation.

   Rumor? **That Jesus said John would not die until He returned.**

   John's death? **John died sometime between 95-100 A.D. (or C.E., by some). His last book, Revelation, was written somewhere around A.D.96. John died from old age, not martyrdom (like all the other disciples), although it is said he survived being boiled alive.**

6) Why should we accept John's testimony as truthful? Do you think you can rely on him to talk with others, the non-believers you know?

   John was the longest living disciple and EYE WITNESS of Jesus' life, miracles and ministry. From him we do not get hear-say or second-hand information. He testifies to what he personally saw and heard.

7) John said in 20:30-31 that he only chose to write about specific miracles done by Jesus --- so that we would believe on His Name and have eternal life! Now he says in John 21:25 that Jesus did so many things that a world full of books couldn't contain them all. Does this statement give you more confidence that basing your life and faith in Jesus is the right decision, that Jesus is truly God, the Son? We live in a world where others reject Jesus and the very existence of God….

   Yes, John's eye witness accounts should give believers greater confidence regarding the life and work of Jesus, even though so many other things about Jesus' life and teachings were never recorded.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: