

UNEXPECTED ENDING

John 21:15-25

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, breakfast, Simon Peter, Simon son of John, love, Lord, Feed my lambs, second time, do you love me, tend my sheep, third time, Peter, grieved, you know everything, feed my sheep, truly truly, young, dress yourself, walk, old, stretch out your hands, carry you where you do not want to go, death, glorify God, follow me, the disciple whom Jesus loved, leaned back against him, supper, betray, this man, my will, remain until I come, brothers, bearing witness, written these things, testimony is true, many other things, written, the world, books

Introduction

Breakfast was relatively quiet, and few questions were asked (John 21:12). The sense of awe remains as the disciples share a meal with the risen Christ. John tells us this was the third time Jesus had appeared to the disciples. He has given them peace. He has commissioned them, but now, Jesus begins to address the elephant in the room regarding Peter and his denial. The question, "Do you love me more than these?" must have broken Peter's heart.

Jesus has not come to be unkind to Peter or to pour salt in the wound; he has come on a restoration mission. The sin was public, and now the denier would be publicly reinstated. Failure does not have the final word for a Christian. Jesus assures Peter every step of the way and reminds him that the call has not changed—follow me. As the Gospel According to John closes, we are reminded of the witness God provides through his written word and the majesty of the eternal Word made flesh, Jesus the Christ.

Outline

Sin comes with consequences (v. 15).

Conviction of sin is God's kindness. When confronted about your sin, it is not for your condemnation but for your restoration (vv. 15-19).

Repentance is more than apologizing to God and feeling bad. True repentance is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit (v. 17).

The sheep belong to Jesus, but he calls pastors to feed and care for his flock (v. 17).

Following Jesus is an eternal and glorious calling (v. 19).

It doesn't take long to get turned around and set our eyes on the wrong things (vv. 20-23).

Scripture is sufficient and gives us exactly what we need (vv. 24-25).

Application

Do you love Jesus enough for your sin to trouble you?

Are you following Jesus right now?

What is pulling your attention away from Jesus?

Questions

1. What is repentance? Psalm 51; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:2-12; 2 Timothy 2:22-26; Hebrews 12:3-17
2. How can you show God that you love him? John 13:34; John 14:21-24; 1 John 2:15-17
3. What does it mean to follow Jesus? How do you follow him every day?
4. What things cause you to take your eyes off Jesus?
5. What has been your favorite part of our journey through John?