

You Follow Me - John 21 Transcendent Series

Intro: Appreciate the message of that video

A) Fitting for us as we have jumped back into our transcendent series

B) Began in January – Focus – Jesus encounter with people in the gospels

1) Real people – real needs – real problems – people Just like us – NEED OF TRANSFORMATION

C) That is what Jesus is all about – transforming broken lives

Transcendent = Surpassing the ordinary /exceptional

A) That is what we need in a savior – Unprecedented times - We need an Extraordinary Savior!

Took a break from this series – to speak to the moment – this pandemic we are in.

But after Easter – I felt this leading from the Lord to jump back in and finish our series

A) Last week – important subject of Breaking – how God uses it in our lives

B) Next week – Encounter with Saul of Tarsus – how God's plan can be so different from our own

C) John 21 - Peter – 2nd Chance – Restoration

I love Peter – He is so much like me.

A) Peter could be stubborn.....

B) Peter put his foot into his mouth often....

C) Peter could be judgmental of others... **they might all deny you but not me!**

1) I can be judgmental of others – overstate my loyalty

D) But Peter really did love the Lord! – He was passionate in his commitment to Jesus

1) So am I – I love the Lord – I just don't always follow him in the right way.

Here is what we are going to see today – from this encounter – 3 Big ideas

- # 1 Jesus already had what Peter was looking for
- # 2 Jesus gives Peter a fresh vision for his life
- # 3 Jesus challenges Peter to focus on his own calling and not the calling of someone else

Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. ² Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

- **7 TOTAL**

³ Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing."

We find the Disciples HERE after the Resurrection in the area of Galilee.

This is before they received instruction to go to Jerusalem and to wait for the HS

A) The time frame between the Resurrection and Pentecost when The HS was poured out was 40 days

B) V.14 reveals that this was the 3rd time that Jesus revealed himself to his disciples after the Rez

C) See after Jesus rose from the dead – he didn't just hang with his disciples 24/7 –

1) He would appear – then gone

The First time he appeared to them was in Jerusalem

A) John 20 upper room - ¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace *be* with you."

²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. John 20:19

B) The first time he appeared Thomas was not there
1) He didn't believe it – Unless....hands and side

C) The next time was 8 days later – Thomas was present for that one – HERE THOMAS touch me

1) **My Lord and My God**

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed." John 20:26-29

Around that time Matthew 28:10 tells us that Jesus instructed them to go to Galilee "Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My

brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

So Now in Galilee - this is the third time the disciples are now down in the area now of the sea of Galilee

A) We are not sure how many days have gone by – but Peter announces to the others – I am going fishing.

B) Much has been made of Peter going fishing
1) Commentators have suggested – Peter was backslidden

C) Peter was being disobedient –
1) He was dragging others into his disobedience

D) I personally don't see this that way at all.

I think Peter is being resourceful - Peter was not one to just sit around.

A) Remember – **MT of Transfiguration** – Revelation
Moses/ Elijah – Jesus Shinning

B) Peter was like – Lord this is awesome – let me build three tabernacles.....

1) This is awesome and I want to do something for you

C) That was Peter – I so relate to that!

When this whole pandemic broke out – what is God doing?

A) This Virus is putting world into Forced Sabbath!

B) I definitely think that for the whole world – God has used this to get our attention.

1) Stop and focus – get our priorities straight

C) But Listened to some Pastors who made it seem like stop everything and just seek the Lord

At first – I thought that sounds great – lets drop everything and just spend time at the feet of Jesus

A) I could get into that – ENJOY THAT

B) But then I thought about all of you with kids at home – Ok – good idea for maybe a day or two

1) Others of you – an hour or two – bouncing off the walls

C) Lord impress upon my heart **-I told our church staff- this is not a time for us to do less –/ do more.**

1) Our time to shine -

D) Time to explore every way possible to engage with our people – encourage people

1) Look for ways to encourage / assist / our community

SO First 3 weeks of this whole thing – many of us around here didn't even take a day off!

A) Trying to figure out the best and most effective ways to minister.

B) How to effectively **do this ONLINE CHURCH**

C) We are getting there – seeing what is affective and what isn't

1) Finally getting into a Rhythm

D) Hoping this is not the NEW normal – too long

So that is how I read this – Peter is like – I can't just sit around here – Jesus said we would see him

A) He will know where to find me. – I am going fishing – I am going to go get us some FOOD.

They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. {Story of their lives – right?}

⁴ But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

100-150 yards out – can't tell who it is

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?"

They answered Him, "No." Now that was a miracle – Fisherman answering No... got away

⁶ And He said to them, "Cast the net on the **right side** of the boat, and you will find *some*." {This should have been a clue – happened in their very first encounter – should have been do you think it could be?

So they cast, and now **they were not able to draw** it in because of the multitude of fish. {Déjà vu

⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" {This is how John refers to himself – 5x in John

I could see the other disciples thinking – Ok John we get it you were his favorite – rub it in our faces

I am sure there is a more spiritual reason why the Holy Spirit inspired – John to write that – but still a little annoying

So John says to Peter – It is the Lord

Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. ⁹Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.”

¹¹Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" — knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

#1 Jesus already had what Peter was looking for

A)“Come & eat breakfast” – what a great invitation!

B)They were looking for food – for fish!

1)Jesus is already on the beach cooking it for them.

C)What they were looking for Jesus already had

1)What they were looking for was already available to them in Jesus

The same thing is true for our lives!

A)My soul is Hungry – Void – I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. John 6:35

Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you. John 6:27

Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread,
And your wages for *what* does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good,
And let your soul delight itself in abundance.
Incline your ear, and come to Me.
Hear, and your soul shall live; Isaiah 55:2-3

The Lord satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things. Psalm 107:9

B)What we are looking for – found in Jesus –
Come to him/ look to him. – Satisfies

#2 Jesus gives Peter a fresh vision for his life

V.15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"

To what does the word, ‘these’ refer?

A)The 153 fish saying: ‘Do you love Me more than fishing, Peter?’

B) Boats? – saying more than your occupation or is work your highest priority

C) The other Disciples? { I think it is this last one
1) Remember Peter boasted – even if all these guys forsake you not me

D) In essence Peter was implying: I love you more than these guys do and I will prove it!

He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, 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 Jonah, 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 all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

Why does Jesus ask Peter the same question 3 times?

A) Obvious answer – 3 denials - But I don't think the motive here is to humiliate Peter

B) This is not about humiliation – it is about restoration.

C) Peter's denial was public and so Jesus is making his restoration public.

This is why Jesus follows up each question with a commission – Feed Lambs – tend my sheep!

A) Jesus is wanting Peter to know – that his life is not going to be DEFINED BY HIS FAILURE

B) A WORD for someone watching today – Your life does not have to be defined by your failure

C) Jesus knew that Peter needed a fresh vision for his life –

1) Jesus is telling Peter – this is what your life is to be about – Feeding and tending my sheep. – lambs

Sheep is the way that God refers to his followers

A) Jesus said John 10 – **I am the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep**

B) Lambs = Little ones –

C) Feed – giving them God's word

1) Tending is in reference to caring for

This is what Jesus is saying to Peter – Peter I want you to be about MY People –

A) Focused on caring for others

B) Prior to this in many ways Peter although he had left all to follow Jesus

C) Peter was still really focused on Peter – taking care of Peter – how this relate to Peter

Jesus was saying – I want you to be others focused!

A) Jesus said – **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

B) I think it takes a while for us to really believe that –

1) We live our lives – with this attitude - what is in it for me

C) Relationships – what can this person do for me – how are they going to make me better

D) People pick churches – How is this community of believers going to benefit me – bless me

1) Meet the needs of me and my family

If we are honest that is how most of us think. But Jesus begs us to be others centered.

A) Read Philippians 2 – Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus – sacrificed everything for others.

B) This is what Jesus was calling Peter to and it is the mindset that he calls us to as well.

C) Reminded – Lady went to her Pastor – she was really down – struggling – discouraged

1) **10 step remedy** – Ok great give them to me

D) Step #1 Do something to help someone else

1) Repeat that step 9 times

Sound Simple- In reality there is something special about helping others – investing in others!

A) We tend to forget about our problems when we get invested in helping someone else through theirs

B) So the 2ND thing we see here is Jesus gives Peter a fresh vision for his life.

1) A new commission – YOUR LIFE – THIS TIME

C) Lets pick up the story in V.18

18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me." John 21:18-19

Now Jesus is being real with Peter here – Following me serving me – is going to be hard

A) But he is assuring Peter – you are going to make it You are going to glorify God into your old age.

B) Again this is important for Peter to HEAR especially because he denied him

C) Peter had to wonder – Can I really do this?

1) Jesus was saying – Yes with me you can and **YOU WILL!**

D) Peter **SERVED WELL** – **HE preached for 37 years,**

1) HE was 70 years old when he died a martyr's death for his Lord!

He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. –

Philippians 1:6

E) Following Jesus is not easy – But as we continue to abide in him – He promises to see us Through

I love Peter's first reaction to this information

V.20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" 21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" **John 21:20-21**

A) This is the Natural tendency to want to compare ourselves with others –

B) Lord let's not focus on me – let's talk about that guy.

#3 Jesus challenges Peter to focus on his own calling and not someone else's

22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?" **John 21:22-23**

YOU FOLLOW ME !

A) This is the challenge for all of us in times of difficulty/ **ARE WE** going to follow Jesus

B) Times of difficulty are **Intersections for our faith** – turn from or turn to - Trust – or we can run

C) Father knows best – or father doesn't have a clue I am going to figure this out on my own

What did Peter do? He followed Jesus –

A) He leaned into his calling

B) Jesus met him and empowered him for the task that was ahead of him.

C) Few weeks later Peter who denied Jesus before a few servant girls around a fire – denied 3 X

1) Peter this time -empowered by the Spirit Is preaching to a crowd of people that numbers over 3,000 –

D) You crucified the Messiah and need to **REPENT Peter would embrace the fresh calling that Jesus gave him on this day.**

A) He would devote his life to feeding and tending – taking care of God's sheep.

B) Did Peter still suffer hardship? You bet – times beaten/ imprisoned – eventually crucified....

1) **Upside down** – not worthy to die in the same way as his Lord

C) Jesus was right – Peter's life was marked by **MUCH DIFFICULTY**

But listen to what Peter would write about his difficulties – this is what he learned

A) He would write a letter to the Church during a time when it was going thru – Height of Persecution / suffering

1 Peter 1:6-8 **In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

B) His suffering and struggles gave him keen insight to write those words

1) We are like gold in the fire.

C) **Fire is used to get the impurities out of the gold Impurities rise – scrapped off – back in**

1) Over and over –

D) **How does the goldsmith know when the gold is pure? Impurities are gone – sees his reflection**

Peter is using this analogy to say the same thing

A)The trial is not God being mean – it is way of building our faith – making us more like Jesus

B)In the fire – our impurities come out – Anyone’s impurities come out over the past several weeks

1)Turn – I saw your impurities

C)Text a friend – I saw your impurities

D)We all have – had impurities come out –
Reminder God is not finished with me yet –

1)The Fire is necessary – One day – See his reflection in me -Goal – conform image of Jesus

Close today: For Some of you- Reminder

A)What you are looking for- satisfaction – It is only found in Jesus – come to him

B)Others in this season and in this time – Jesus is wanting to give you fresh vision

C)He is asking you – Do you love me more than _____ ?

D)Your priorities – Your focus

In this time of upheaval – trying to get your attention

A)New focus and new ministry

B)New direction for your life – that is going to involve you being more others centered and focused

C)More blessed to give than to receive

Finally -The Lord is saying to some of us – Quit worrying about what I am doing with so and so – YOU FOLLOW ME

- 1) Lord they are getting married I am still single
- 2) Lord they got a great job I am still waiting
- 3) Lord they just got asked to be involved in that ministry and I was overlooked again.
- 4) Lord they got healed and I am still sick -

D) Jesus says – to us – Don’t worry about them – You follow me!

E)You believe that I love you – I have a great plan for you – Your trust me.

PRAY

Family time questions

YOUR FAMILY –

ALONE? – **WE ARE A FAMILY** – call a friend – talk through this today – this week

Prayed with me – **Now a part of the family of God**

Three questions

#1 How would you fill in the blank – Do you love me more than _____ ?

#2 It what ways does comparing yourself to others keep you from serving and following Jesus?

#3 What can you do for someone this week in your sphere of influence who is in need?