



RBC CONNECT GROUP STUDY FOR WEEK 3/5/2020

POST RESURRECTION – BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH PART 2

Study Text: John 21:15-19 (J B Phillips New Testament)

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love (*agape*) me more than these others?" "Yes, Lord," he replied, "You know that I am your friend (*phileo*)."

¹⁶ "Then feed my lambs," returned Jesus. Then he said for the second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (*agape*) me?" "Yes, Lord," returned Peter. "You know that I am your friend (*phileo*)."

¹⁷ "Then care for my sheep," replied Jesus. Then for the third time, Jesus spoke to him and said, "Simon, son of John, are you my friend (*phileo*)?" Peter was deeply hurt because Jesus' third question to him was "Are you my friend (*phileo*)?", and he said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I am your friend!"

¹⁸ "Then feed my sheep," Jesus said to him. "I tell you truly, Peter, that when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you liked, but when you are an old man, you are going to stretch out your hands and someone else will dress you and take you where you do not want to go."

¹⁹ (He said this to show the kind of death - by crucifixion - by which Peter was going to honour God.) Then Jesus said to him, "You must follow me."

Last week we looked at this story and discovered the absolute importance of both giving and receiving forgiveness for our overall well-being and the health of our relationships.

Today, we will concentrate on the specifics of the breakfast on the beach.

Refer to Mark 14: 67, Luke 22: 55, John 18: 18 & John 21:9 & 10

What is common to all of these references?

Why do you think this is?

Peter, by his denying of Jesus had, in fact, renounced Jesus and his own position of being Jesus' disciple. Yet, when Jesus speaks with Peter He doesn't refer to Peter's past denial of him. Doesn't point out his weakness. Doesn't condemn him in any way for his behaviour.

When someone comes seeking forgiveness from us for some hurt or injustice they have done to us, how difficult is it to NOT refer to the event itself and the other's part in it?

Look at how Jesus addressed Peter (John 21:15). He addresses Peter as he was known before he became a disciple of Jesus.

Why do you think He did this?

You can explore the various Greek words John uses in his questioning of Peter, and Peter's own responses. Phill Sporton commented on this in the "On the Couch" presentation on Sunday May 3rd.

When we first meet Simon, son of John, he is fishing (this was his occupation). Do you remember what Jesus said to him (and the other disciples)?

"I will make you fishers of men (people)." In other words, you will become evangelists, speaking the "good news" to those whom you encounter.

On the beach it seems that Jesus has taken Peter right back to the beginning, erased the past, restored Peter to discipleship, but has given him a different ministry. Peter is no longer to be an evangelist.

What has Jesus called on Peter to become from now on?

How is this evidenced by Jesus responses to Peter's replies to the questions?

Pastor:

To be a shepherd to tend, care for and feed (grow in faith and knowledge) the young followers and older followers of Jesus, both in age and experience. Protecting, nurturing and keeping the 'sheep' united

Requirement:

That Peter be prepared to lay his life down for the sheep. Only Peter, or all subsequent leaders?

Important:

Whose sheep were they? Whose sheep are we? Are we the sheep of a particular minister/pastor/ leader? Are we sheep of a particular church/denomination? Who owns us?

Acceptance:

Peter, if you accept all of this, 'Follow me!'