

Another Miraculous Catch

June 19, 2016

John 21:1-23

In today's passage Jesus "reinstates" Peter and gives him a few reminders (commands); the reminders are for us as well.

1) Obey Him

Do it Jesus' way, even when it seems to make no sense or is ridiculous. Who would have thought casting the net on the other side of the boat would change things? If doing things in our own might and will is not working it may be that we have failed to get proper direction from the Lord.

Often we are "spinning our wheels" trying to do it our way when Jesus is trying to get our attention and tell us that His way is the right and better way.

"We are never far from success when we permit Jesus to give the orders."

~ Warren Wiersbe

All of our work and efforts are useless and in vain when we go at it on our own.

Sometimes we receive direction from the Lord, but do the work on our own or no direction from the Lord at all. It could be the direction we are heading is not the one God has chosen.

Sit at His feet, get His direction, commands and guidance.

2) Love Him and Love others

Peter denied Jesus three times, Peter gets three questions.

Love = show it, much more than words

If I love Jesus and am in need of Him, then I will spend time with Him, commit to God's Church, serve God's Church and be held accountable by God's people.

Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep

Three similar commands

a. Feed My lambs – Pasture (tend) the lambs in the Greek. Feed/ Pasture is in the present tense denoting a continual action of tending, feeding and caring.

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Psalm 95:7

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

John 10:9, 11

b. Tend My Sheep

In this exchange Jesus was emphasizing tending the sheep in a supervisory capacity, not only feeding but ruling over them. This expresses the full scope of pastoral oversight, both in future and in all those who would follow him in pastoral ministry. "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers" (1 Peter 5:2).¹

c. Feed (pasture tend) the sheep

Here Jesus combines the different Greek words to make clear the job of the shepherd of the flock of God. They are to tend, care for, and provide spiritual food for God's people, from the youngest lambs to the full-grown sheep, in continual action to nourish and care for their souls, bringing them into the fullness of spiritual maturity. The totality of the task set before Peter, and all shepherds, is made clear by Jesus' three-fold command and the words He chooses.²

This is for all of us.

Each of us has a gift or gifts from the Lord, and we should use what He has given us to help protect and perfect the flock. Sheep are prone to wander, and we must look after each other and encourage one another.

"The biggest threat to the Church in any generation is not the government, not some other religion, nor enemies of the faith. It's us with our own waywardness, our own wandering, our own hard-heartedness, and our own love affair with sin." ~ **Kevin DeYoung**

3) Follow Him, not others

Beware when you get your eyes off the Lord and start to look at other Christians!

"Looking unto Jesus" should be the aim and practice of every believer (Heb. 12:1-2). To be distracted by ourselves, our circumstances, or by other Christians, is to disobey the Lord and possibly get detoured out of the will of God. Keep your eyes of faith on Him and on Him alone. This does not mean that we ignore others, because we do have the responsibility of caring for one another (Phil. 2:1-4). Rather, it means that we must not permit our curiosity about others to distract us from following the Lord. God has His plan for us; He also has plans for our Christian friends and associates." ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

Prayer Focus:

Obey the Lord

Love the Lord and Others

Follow Him always

¹ Gotquestions.org

² Ibid