



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Sermon Title: "How to Handle Trouble"

Series Title: "...Now What?"

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

John 21:15-22

April 21, 2024

Description:

The Resurrection gives us the experience of forgiveness, and the promise of ...trouble.

Icebreaker (for groups):

Describe a time when you had a "...now what?" feeling after experiencing a significant life event, good or bad. How did it turn out? In what ways did you sense Jesus' presence at that time?

Reflections on the Sermon:

What points in Pastor Bryan's sermon did you find helpful?

Scripture Passage: John 21:15–22 (NIV)

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

²⁰ Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?")

²¹ When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

²² Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

Reviewing the Scripture:

1. In verses 15-17, what questions does Jesus ask Peter? Why do you think Jesus addressed Peter by his given name (Simon) rather than by Christ's name for him (Peter)?
2. In verse 15, who or what are "these?" What would your "these" be if He asked you this question?
3. In verses 15-17, what are Peter's answers? From your knowledge of his years with Jesus, why did Peter seem so sure of his answers? How sure would you be to answer Jesus in the same way?
4. In verses 15-17, what does Jesus tell Peter to do? What is the significance of His commands?
5. From his three answers, what does Peter know about Jesus? What do you know about Jesus?
6. What do Jesus' commands tell Peter about His trust in him?



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7. Does Jesus tell Peter how to take care of and feed His lambs and sheep? If so, what must Peter do to be successful? What do you learn from Jesus here?
8. What evidence do you see in this passage that Jesus forgave Peter?

Going Deeper:

1. In verse 15, who were the “they” who ate with Jesus that day? (See verse 2) What do the five named disciples have in common when you look back at their responses to Jesus during His ministry? In what trouble may they have been with Jesus for which they needed forgiveness?
2. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter these pointed questions in front of the other disciples, assuming He may have done so?
3. Given that the disciples were at a “...now what?” point in their lives, how do you think their plans changed after Jesus spoke to them at breakfast? How did your life change after you were saved?
4. What is Jesus saying to Peter about His trust and confidence in him when He repeatedly tells him to take care of and feed His sheep and lambs? How do you feel about what has God entrusted you with?
5. How did Peter follow Jesus after He ascended to heaven? See Acts 2:36-38 for another “...what now?” moment.
6. In verses 18-19, what sort of trouble do you think Jesus is describing about Peter’s death? Are believers guaranteed to be free from troubles because He saved them? Why or why not?
7. In verses 20-21, why did Peter ask Jesus about John? What do you think Peter thought about John? How are other people or concerns distracting you from following Jesus?
8. In verse 22, do you think Jesus was annoyed or angry with Peter? What would be most important to Jesus after He ascended?

Personal Questions:

1. To whom do you need to go to seek forgiveness? What would be your first step? How would you begin that conversation?
2. Whom do you need to forgive? What would be your first step? How would you begin that conversation?
3. How can you show a person whom you have forgiven that your forgiveness is genuine?
4. If you have been forgiven by someone, how did it affect your relationship with them?
5. What habits or comforts are keeping you from consistently following Jesus?
6. What does following Jesus mean or look like to you?
7. What do your actions reveal about who or what you are following?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for being such a forgiving God of grace and mercy. You know we love You; may we remember that You loved us first. Because You are holy and just, You forgive even our worst sins when we come to You in sincere confession, and we know You will cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Lord Jesus, may we reflect Your perfect example of following the Father, even at the expense of our own discomfort and troubles, which are merely a shadow of all You endured for our sake. May we follow You simply because we know You love us. It is in Your gracious name we pray. Amen!