

Feed My Sheep (John 21)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ca5tv2W3aKQ>

Intro:

- We have all experienced times when we have done things that have made us feel inadequate to whatever God had in store for us.
 - Make mistakes as a pastor and you feel like you don't deserve to lead
 - Fail as a parent and you feel like it would be better to just let your kids have whatever they want
 - Drop the ball as a boss or a leader and you don't know if you should try again
- Maybe that's how you feel today after coming back from almost 100 days of isolation
 - A laundry list of failures, sins
 - Maybe you are here today w/ guilt and condemnation
 - Maybe you feel bad even showing up
- How does Jesus react to these situations? What kind of trial run does he give us after failure? What are his expectations?
 - Having denied Jesus three times, we are about to peek in on a very intimate encounter with Peter and Jesus.
 - We can learn from this encounter how Jesus interacts with sinners, with leaders, with his apostolic core team

[1] After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. [2] Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. [3] Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

[4] Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. [5] Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." [6] He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. [7] That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. [8] The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

- Should bring to mind Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11
- Then: No fish, cast the nets again, Simon sees his sin, he tells the Lord to leave, Jesus invites him to something bigger than himself
- Now: No fish, cast the nets again, Simon sees the Lord, runs to him. What will Jesus do?

[9] When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. [10] Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." [11] So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. [12] Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. [13] Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. [14] This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

- Then: Peter fell to the floor and Jesus said he would teach him to fish for people
 - Peter feels sinful and Jesus invites him to purpose and vision
- Now: Face to face w/ sin and his savior
 - Deeper understanding of sin & of grace
 - Jesus serves him after all Peter has done!
 - Last time he broke bread was the last supper. He serves them to the end - on the cross and still!

[15] When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." [16] He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, 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 John, 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 everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. [18] Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." [19] (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

- This whole section is a recommissioning or a restoration of sorts
 - Peter is more aware of his sin now than he was ever before
 - Peter is also more aware of Jesus' grace
 - Then Peter just was enthralled by Jesus, now he loves him
- Peter had boasted in John 13:37 that he would gladly lay down his life for Jesus and instead denied him three times
 - So Jesus asks him, "Do you love me more than these?"
 - These what? More than you love these things? More than you love these people? More than these people love me?
 - I don't know, but the essence is the same, Peter had boasted explicitly of his loyalty to Jesus. Now, Jesus asks Peter something like "Now, after you have denied me three times, as I told you you would, can you still affirm that you love me more than these other disciples do?"
- Jesus ends the exchange exactly as he did in the original calling of Peter - with an invitation to follow. → Truly we serve a gracious Lord
- For Peter, Jesus explains what following him means
 - Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep. → Be a Shepherd

- Follow me even though it will lead you places you don't want to go.
- What will Peter choose?

[20] Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" [21] When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" [22] Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!" [23] So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

- Peter does what others would do, what we would do. He compares himself to another.
- What about him, Lord? What will happen to him?
- Jesus' reply is simple and should be burned into our minds, "Don't worry about him. You follow me."
 - How much agita could be eliminated from our hearts if we embraced this simple reality

[24] This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true. [25] Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

What does this teach about leadership in the church (in the home as well)?

- 1. If you want to be spiritually unproductive, follow your own lead.**
- 2. Have you failed? Yes, but Jesus is quicker to forgive and restore than you are.**
- 3. The foundation of good leadership is loving Jesus more than these.**
 - More than these things (vocation, stuff)
 - More than these people (family, friends)
 - More than these people do (strive to love Jesus the most & you can't go wrong)
- The command for leadership, specifically in the church, but as a principle applied to all leadership (home, church, work, etc) is twofold:
 - a. Shepherd the sheep.**
 - What do shepherds do? Psalm 23
 - Guide, lead, feed, water, protect, care, know the way
 - How does this happen? Well what would Peter say? The Word!
 - Guide from the Word. Lead from the Word. Feed from the Word. Water the flock from the Spirit of the Word. Protect with the truth of the Word. Care with gospel love from the Word. Know the right way b/c the Word says, "This is the way! Walk in it!"
 - b. Follow Jesus even if you don't want to go.**
- 5. Don't worry about what God's plan is for that person. You, follow Jesus.**

Applied?

- Me: I know what the Lord expects of me
- You: Do you? What will the Lord hold you accountable for? Mom, dad? Elders? Feed the sheep. Mom & Dad? Feed the sheep. All of us? Follow Jesus and spread the Word
- Them: People need truth.

DISCUSS:

1. Which of the five points resonated with you the most? Why?
2. What might the Lord be trying to tell you?
3. How does this help you to better understand...
 - a. Forgiveness?
 - b. Jesus' expectations for his appointed leadership?
 - c. Jesus' expectations of his followers?