

THE GOD OF THE SECOND CHANCE

S.R. John 21:15 - 17

Intro.

9 – 3 – 2023

- A. In our struggle to live morally excellent lives, we sometimes fail before God.
- B. We all need to know how God views sinners who repent.
- C. Jesus shows us in the life of Peter.

I. Text: John 21

A. Background:

- 1. Various appearances of Jesus to the disciples (21:4-5, 14)
- 2. John says to Peter, “It is the Lord.”
- 3. Jesus has prepared breakfast (9-12).
- 4. Now he addresses the matter at hand (21:15-17)

B. Read (21:15-17) What is Jesus talking about here?

- 1. Some say that Jesus is asking Peter if he loves Him more than his occupation - fishing?
- 2. Others say, “Do you love me more than the other apostles? (**Mark 14:27-31**).
- 3. Still others believe there is a play on the Greek words for “love.”
 - a. Jesus asked Peter in verses 15 - 16 do you (love - *agapao*) me.
 - b. Peter responds by saying you know I (love - *phileo*) you.
- 4. None of these is what the text says. (John 21:17 “third time”)
- 5. Do you think this may relate to something else Peter said three times?

II. PAIN OF BETRAYAL

A. Genuine and sincere Christians who stumble and fall, hurt as a result of their betrayal.

B. Perhaps you are hurting because of a personal betrayal of the Lord in your life.

- 1. May be known only to you and God.
- 2. Be thankful that you are hurting because that speaks well of your conscience - pain is there for a reason.
- 3. Godly sorrow leads to repentance (2 Cor.7:8-10).

C. There comes a time to move on in the kingdom.

- 1. We must not stay in the mode of grieving and suffering.
- 2. We will never feel good about our sin, but when we come to repent and confess (1 Jn.1:9); then it is time to move on (Ph’p.3:12-14).

D. Jesus confronts Peter with his sin, (Nathan did for David),

1. There is a need for that, but remember;
 2. Christians hurt because of their sins.
- E. Sincere Christians are very sensitive about being confronted with their sins.
1. The sincere Christian, confronted with the fact that he has sinned against His God, falls under the whip of his own conscience. That is more brutal than any lashing you might give him.
 2. If his heart is not sincere, your whippings will not change his heart.
- F. Peter knew that Christ loved him, yet Jesus brought up something that was terribly uncomfortable for Peter.
1. Do you think about the night of betrayal, especially at times when grieving over your own failures?
 2. Peter was already having a bad night before the betrayal:
 - a. Lord, you are not going to wash my feet (Jn. 13:8).
 - b. Lord, I want to follow you right now (Jn.13: 37-38).
 - c. Peter attacks Malchus (Lk. 22:50-51).
 - d. Peter confused and perplexed from the turn of events, follows at a distance (Lk.22:54-62).
 3. Jesus brought up something that must have been eating on Peter.
 4. Peter needed to know that and so do we. We begin to think:

III. IF GOD REALLY KNEW ME, HE WOULDN'T LOVE ME.

- A. Wrong Concepts of God:
- B. True Concept of God - omniscient (all - knowing one)
1. Know us top to bottom and inside out - knows it all.
 2. **We keep no secrets from God** - perceives even our thoughts and motives **Heb 4:12**
- C. God did not wait in time until we became good enough for God to bless us with His Son (**Rom.5:6-8**).
1. It was not when we most deserved it, but rather when we least deserved it that God demonstrated his love.
 2. When is it that we show love to others - only when they deserve it? Only when they have gone for so many months or years without messing up?
 3. **God desired to give us another chance.**
 4. Peter needed to know that God still loved him **even at his worst.**
- D. Response: I've heard that God offers forgiveness, but you don't know where I have been.
1. Message is: "I've gone too far, sinned too much."
 - a. God's grace can reach even me and you. (2 Tim.1:13). Paul, chief of sinners.
 3. **We are often unwilling to forgive one another or ourselves and then we decide that God is unwilling to forgive us either.**
 - a. God is not subject to our self-imposed rules.
 - b. God loves us at our worst. But He does not leave us there.
 4. God does not save us unconditionally. (1 John 1:8 – 9)
- Conclusion: Will you come back to God? (Matthew 3:8) "fruit in keeping with repentance"