

Who is Jesus?: Restorer

John 21:15-19

Introduction

- Flowing out of last week's account, we today find the purpose for Christ gathering these 7 disciples as friends together on the shore.
- Christ, in doing the work of restoration in Peter, asks that most conscience-piercing question, "Do you love me?"

Restoration is Rooted in Love (vv.15-17)

- Love of Christ for Peter
 - Agape, Agape, Phileo
- Love of Peter for Christ
 - Phileo every time
 - John regularly interchanges the verbs of love, although there is a bit more intimacy involved with phileo, for it also came to be used for the action "kiss" whereas Agape was never used for such.
 - The only real distinction that's worth considering in context for just a moment is that Peter could have felt that Agape was too distant an affection to express, whereas phileo was more intimate in its connotation.
- Love of Christ for His Sheep
 - Key to everything that Peter is to do or be
 - **John 10:14-17**
- Love of the Sheep for Each Other
 - All of this is done (as far as we can tell) in the presence of the other disciples
 - **John 17:20-26**

Restoration is Administered through Shepherding (vv.15-19)

- Under-shepherds Shepherding the Flock of God
 - **NOTE:** Spurgeon brought out to me that this will not apply the same way to all people. However, let me say that we are all stewards of God's varied grace and gifts, and all relate to some measure of co-laboring as we pursuing maturity in Christ.
 - Restoring the Under-shepherd
 - Demanded restoration with Christ
 - Demanded restoration with the disciples
 - Demanded restoration of calling (public and persevering)
 - Preparing the Under-shepherd
 - Only Christ
 - Not for love of men or world
 - A personal relationship
 - A martyr's heart
 - Tasking the Under-shepherd
 - Feed, Tend, Feed
 - All present-active-imperative: Do this and keep on doing it
 - Feed: Lead to graze and feed on food appropriate for the creature
 - Primary task being to provide the food of the Word
 - Tend: The appropriate use of authority and rule over the sheep, making provision at all cost, even death by wolves & beasts
 - **John Calvin**, *"The Lord spares many, and abstains from shedding their blood, satisfied with this alone, that they devote themselves to him sincerely and unreservedly as long as they live. But as Satan continually makes new and various attacks, all who undertake the office of feeding must be prepared for death; as they certainly have to do not only with sheep, but also with wolves."*
- **1 Peter 5:1-4**

- Christ our Shepherd
 - **John 10:11,14**
 - **Psalm 23** (In reading last night with the kids)

Restoration is Focused on God's Glory (vv.18-19)

- Sustained dependence on Christ
 - Independence in life will give way to dependence in death
 - A good dose of mortality brings a sobriety of thought that can happen no other way
- Clarified Speech
 - Let us not lose sight that John has been careful to show us another sign here to produce lasting belief in us
 - All of our life, speech and death should proclaim the glory of God in the face of Christ!
- Glorified death for Christ
 - **Don Carson**, *"What is remarkable is that Peter lived and served three decades with this prediction hanging over him."*
- In the mean time... "Follow me."
 - Present active imperative – command to follow and keep on following
 - Peter had denied Christ three times. Through three questions, Christ restores Peter's fellowship with Himself through expressed love, repentance and obedience
 - **John 1:42-43**

Application

- These same questions apply to us today?
 - Do you love Christ?
 - Are you in such gross sin that the question brings serious doubt?

- Have you been restored to Christ, others around you, and are you now following Him?
- Are you one that's denied Christ? Perhaps though growing up in the church, you turned away from Christ and went after the world. Do you love Him? Be restored to following Him daily and serving Him as you follow.

- Those of you listening who are pastors or are called to be...
 - Do you love Him more than those around you?
 - Do you love the praise of men or are you willing to die a hard death (even alone) for Christ?
- Let us all get rid of our denials and sin-failures, finding our restoration in a gracious Savior who has met with us this morning.