**John 21**

I. The Catch of Fish (v. 1-14)

A. The catch of fish is a parable of their coming mission in the world

1. The 7 disciples fish all night and, with all their experience and expertise, catch nothing. Jesus asks them to do something seemingly meaningless. They catch a miraculous amount of fish

2. This is the same experience they had when Jesus first called them into discipleship (see Luke 5)

3. The lesson is this: as they go out into the world to start catching people (casting their nets by sharing the good news of Jesus and bringing people to faith), they must remember that the power and mission is Jesus’, not theirs. It’s only in his power and by his word that people will be saved.

B. Notice how Jesus communicates their mission (evangelism) in a way that is so particular and specific to them (in terms of fishing)

II. The restoring of Peter (v. 15-22)

A. Peter had denied Jesus three times around a fire in public (see John 18:15-18, 25-27)

B. Jesus re-enacts his denial and restores him in a painful but healing and redemptive way: He gives Peter an opportunity to confess his love for Jesus three times around a fire in public

1. “Simon Son of John” He is no longer addressed as “Peter” (= Rock) because Peter has proven to not be much of a rock.

2. “Do you love me more than these?” Peter had claimed superior love to Jesus (see Mt 26:33)

3. Each time Jesus says, “feed my sheep” which is his way of affirming Peter’s continued role as shepherd of the new church

C. Notice how Jesus has forgiven and restored Peter in a way that is so particular and specific to what he needed to hear (his illusions of his own strength and faith are gone, but now he has an even deeper experience in his Lord’s love and grace)

III. The calling of Peter (v. 18-20

A. Jesus predicts that Peter’s life will end in crucifixion (v. 18)

B. Jesus reminds Peter of the fundamental call: “follow me” (v. 19)

C. Jesus warns Peter from unhealthy curiosity and comparison with other disciples (v. 20-22)

D. Notice how Jesus’ calling on Peter and his future is so particular and specific and free from comparison with others.

IV. Conclusion: Jesus’ ministry of particularizing people

A. Notice how in each instance Jesus work is personal, particular, and specific to the situation.

B. Where do you need to receive that “ministry of particularity?”

1. Where do you need to receive Jesus’ forgiveness in a very particular and specific way/area in your life?

2. Where do you need to experience his calling on your life in a particular and specific way?

3. Where do you need to be freed from comparing yourself and your calling to other people’s lives and callings?

C. Where do you need to give this ministry to others?

1. How can you be intentional to notice others, pay attention to the specifics of their lives, and communicate God’s love and grace in personal ways to them?

2. Mothers: This is one of your great ministries: to notice, see, and love people for precisely who they are in all their particularity

**Discussion Questions**

1. Consider v. 1-14 and the miraculous catch of fish. What lesson was Jesus teaching them through that experience? What do you take away from that lesson as you consider your own life at this time?

2. Consider Jesus’ interaction with Peter in v. 15-17. Discuss together what Jesus is doing in that interaction. Is there anything in particular that strikes you about that interaction, or are there any unanswered questions you have about that interaction?

3. In v. 20-22 Jesus frees Peter from the temptation to compare his own future with John’s. Where are you tempted to play the comparison game in ways that distract you from God’s calling on your own life?

4. Consider how Jesus ministers in such particular and personal ways in this passage. Can you share a time when Jesus met you in a very personal and particular way? In a way that was so specific to who you are and what you were going through?

5. Is there anyone in your life right now that you think God is calling you to minister to in that kind of personal way (= to pay close attention to them, to notice what is going on in their lives, to love them as they are, to help them experience God’s grace in the midst of their specific situation, etc.)?