

21:2-14 Calling Us Back  
Series: Who is Jesus, the Christ?  
Reading – **John 21:1-14** 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Last week we looked at the book of John in overview. The book of John tells us who Jesus Christ is--the Son of God. It shows us that Christ came to seek and to save the lost with love. This week we want to start zeroing in on how Christ calls Peter back to the work that He has planned for Him. In the example, we have a clear picture of the wisdom and love of Christ at work. It is an example of the way in which Christ works with us, so it is an excellent study for us. Join us as we look at the love of Christ in action to His own.

- Examples of Christ seeking the lost – 2 contrasts
  - John 3 – Nicodemus: takes an in-depth look at God’s plan of salvation.
    - Emphasizes the mystery of the Spirit’s work, the need of a sacrifice for sin, and the love of God the Father to reach out to sinners, the lost nature of sinful men.
  - John 4 – Show Christ’s love on the opposite end of the spectrum, from a teacher of the Jews to a sinful woman of Samaria. The scope of salvation, the power of God to redeem and use sinners, the required knowledge of God.
- Christ’s call to Peter! Seeking another sinner!
  - Peter’s first call/meeting with Jesus is at the river Jordan.
    - **John 1:36-42** “<sup>36</sup> And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, Behold the Lamb of God! <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, What do you seek? They said to Him, Rabbi (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), where are You staying? <sup>39</sup> He said to them, Come and see. They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, We have found the Messiah (which is translated, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas (which is translated, A Stone).”
    - **John 1:35-36** “<sup>35</sup> Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, Behold the Lamb of God!”
  - Peter’s second call – on the shore of the lake – directly after His temptation.
    - **Matthew 4:12-20** “<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; <sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: <sup>14</sup> That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, <sup>15</sup> The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, *by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;* <sup>16</sup> The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. <sup>20</sup> And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.”
    - **Matthew 5-7** Beatitudes....
    - **Matthew 8:14-15** “<sup>14</sup> And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. <sup>15</sup> And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.”
  - Peter’s third call (or greater detail on second call) – A miraculous catch of fish: **Luke 5:1-11**
    - **Luke 4:38** – Heals Peter’s mother-in-law
    - **Luke 5:1-11** – Teaches the people from boat, then gives them a command to go out...

- **Luke 5:27-32** Call of Levi the tax collector.
- **Luke 6:12-16**: Christ will choose the 12 Apostles (then teach beatitudes in Luke 6:17-49)
- (Appears to be just after the beatitudes) **Matthew 8:23-27** “<sup>23</sup> Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. <sup>24</sup> And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. <sup>25</sup> Then His disciples came to *Him* and awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us! We are perishing! <sup>26</sup> But He said to them, Why are you fearful, O you of little faith? Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> So the men marveled, saying, Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”
  - One of the first specific teachings – TRUST ME. He has control over the winds and the sea...
- After the death of John the Baptist, Christ prays in the wilderness and then feeds the 5,000.
  - **Matthew 14:27-33** “<sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid. <sup>28</sup> And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water. <sup>29</sup> So He said, Come. And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, Lord, save me! <sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt? <sup>32</sup> And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, Truly You are the Son of God.
- Now Christ calls Peter back: John 21:1-14
  - Similarities and differences
    - On the water. Meeting us, seeking us, treating us as individuals...
      - Theological discussion on the things of heaven, to living water at a well, to fish in a net.
      - Perfect analogy to reach the hearer, at the heart of who the hearer was.
        - The theologian didn’t know God or the things of God!
        - The woman drawing water for her thirst wasn’t looking in the right place for true water!
        - The fishers of fish should have been looking for bigger things than fish from the water.
    - An opening of eyes.
      - Sinfulness, wisdom (do it my way, fish now, draw hear, come through the Jewish Messiah, and authority of Christ.)
    - A calling. This is what Christ does. He never saves us to leave us alone, to continue on as we were. He is giving us new life and a new direction in life, to tell others about what Christ has done.
      - Nicodemus – When I am lifted up, then you will know....
      - Woman of Samaria – Go and call your husband....
      - I will make you fishers of men / Feed my lambs and sheep...
    - Differences:
      - Repentance came first in the one and slow in the other;
        - So true of falling away / brokenness. Sin against knowledge!
        - There has to be a breaking of pride. We want Christ to be like us in our fallen state...
      - Many fish and boat starts to sink, now great fish and the net and boat are fine! ( **John 14:12** believes on me...greater works than these he will do...?)
- Don’t really know if there was meaning, but it was to open Peter’s eyes, to make him stop and think.
  - Christ 1.) Comes to us through the hearing of the Gospel: That He paid for our sins. 2.) He shows us our own sin, our own unwillingness to follow. We might blame it on everything from lack of belief to lack of joy to our own sinfulness... Really it is our love of self. 3.) He always calls us to follow Him.

I wonder how many times Christ comes to His own in love and is not received. How many times does He in His grace work with us and call us? Again and again, He shows us that He is God. Can you hear His voice today? He is still calling. Let us be like Peter and fall at His feet, recognizing our sinfulness and let us ask for mercy.

Prayer ..... “Now May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.” (**2Co 13:14 NKJ**)

Sing the Doxology.... Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creature, here below..., Praise Him above you heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen