

We have seen in John 20 and 21 how Jesus is always flowing in the Father's redemptive, restoring and rebuilding work. Even now, after bleeding suffering and dying, Jesus does not quit. He isn't saying "My job is done now; I think I'll head for heaven and kick back while the Holy Spirit starts doing His part. NO! Jesus is still involved, still healing the emotions, fears and failures of those He loves.

We looked last week at the idea of moving into His life, but that's not really the deal you know...so what is it really?

1. It's about the Father

It's all about the Father moving into our life. But two masters cannot occupy the same territory. **VS. 18** makes it plain that the Father must be in control. We read in John 12: 24-28 that the abundant life can never really take place unless our old self, the controlling one dies. The message of the Cross is not about abundance or lack, wealth or little, ease or suffering,... It's about control. Jesus didn't tell us how much food, clothing or things we would have, He simply said not to be anxious over it and that the sparrows that He watches over were in better shape than Solomon in all of His glory.

DESIRES WILL control your life. He even determines to fulfill your desires. The real question is whose desires are in your heart... His desires your desires?

2. It's about Freedom

vs. 15-19 Are all about healing for Simon by taking Him through his largest areas of need.

1. His belief that he can serve the Lord in His own strength, which will always cause failure and burnout.

2. His comfort zone. (We'll look at this later on).

Let's look at the first one. Looking at Peter's own serving activity we see promises that can't be kept, .. "I'll never leave you even if the rest do." We see that walking on water turns to sinking, and even a rebuking of Jesus for washing feet. You see my flesh wants the Cross to be a one time event and only for Jesus, not for me. I don't have to live in the style of the Cross, that was done by Jesus. We see that great revelation "Thou art the Christ" and a minute later **Jesus has to rebuke Peter for denying the Father's purpose for Jesus because it didn't look successful.**

In Summary:

There are three things (among others) that **vs 15-18** show us:

1. The basis of service must be God's love pouring in and through me NOT OBLIGATION.
2. That Jesus gives us gentle opportunities to be healed of our past hurts.
3. That Agape love, God's love has only one result, to live as Jesus did and still does, as a servant to others. *Show me an apostle who didn't live like that even if they all were martyred or exiled... Because there is "joy" in the poured out life!!*

REFLECTIONS:

1. What is/was the most tiring task you have ever faced?
2. What were/are the results?
3. Name an area of your life you would like God to move in to.
4. What are God's desires that are, or you would like to become your desires?