

“DINE WITH ME JESUS” (Provision, Presence and Purpose)

John 21: 12-15

Intro: I have had somewhat of a tension in going on this week. It seems like the Lord was saying I have more to say in these scriptures, and I was wanting to move it along. I have to believe that someone, like me needs to have these passages speak more to them. You see, this is more than a Bible story. This is His word to us. He reveals Himself in this when we soak in the truth of it. His heart starts jumping off the pages, and suddenly there is revelation to us. Each one of us could gain so much more if we were not reading only about what Jesus is doing in the era of the story, but what He is doing in it now. What if you were to place yourself in the story, capture the image of the scene of He and you conversing. It is easier to put someone else in the story and say, “I wish they would get that.” “What a great truth for the person next to me, or my wife, husband, family member etc. As long as I am trying to gain truth to apply it to someone else, I will never fully get what He is trying to work in MY life. What is the heart of God saying to your heart in these passages.

I. John 21: 1-6

His Provision

In these passages Jesus is performing a miracle. A wonderful miracle of providing. Lot’s and Lot’s of fish, more than they could ever eat. Wow! What’s more, He is providing in the very same place that they have had no luck in themselves. Same lake, same fishing hole, same nets, same fishermen. They are just 10 or 20 feet away from a miracle all night long. Jesus (**v. 5**) was on the shore ready to minister to them, but they did not see Him. I suppose it is that they were busy fishing. Then He calls to them from the shore, “hey, how are you doing,?” not very well is the answer. NO problem. Let me show you how easy it is, this provision piece. Signs and wonders are no problem for Jesus. I wonder then why we put so much energy into things that are not in our control. Let’s come back to that.

Mary at the Tomb

In **John 20: 13-15** we see Mary at the tomb, crying and expressing her frustration to someone she thinks is the gardener. She has a provision she needs, “show me where you put Him, let me get Him.” Well... in the shadows was Jesus.

Disciples behind the Door

In **John 20: 19-20** Remember the locked doors, the fear, the disillusionment? Well just 2 to 4" away was Jesus, or was He in the room all the time? Listening, loving, and longing to move in at just the right time.

II. John 20: 16

His Presence

What was it that Mary needed that morning? Angels appearing, feeding of 5000, people raised from the dead? I think her thirst, her desire her heartbeat was all about the presence of Jesus. Miracles had been performed in her own life, she was in need of His presence.

John 20:20 - Those disciples behind the locked doors, they had seen a lot of provision and signs. Walked on water, had demons subject to them once, saw storms calmed at a “peace be still” but that was not foremost in their minds now. It had all come down to “where is He, what is He doing, what is He up to?” It had all come down to JUST GIVE ME JESUS!! Just seeing His side and His hands, tremendous miracle!

John 21:7 Those fishing friends really had something going. Put yourself in the boat. Imagine the surroundings. Wow, Look at this, He’s doing it again just like back in Luke 5. But this guy (Peter) who back in Luke who says get away from me, I’m sinful, JUMPS out of the boat wraps himself up and makes a dash for what? The FISH??. No, no. He’s into Jesus. IT IS THE LORD!!! THAT’S WHAT I NEED. I want my focus to be on Him. I always want to be more excited about Him than fish. I always want His presence more than His provisions.

III. John 21: 15-22

His Purpose

There is a lot of emphasis these days on purpose. No problem, every one needs one. I much prefer a purpose

driven life over a performance driven life. The real question is who and what drives the purpose? Jesus tells us clearly the highest purpose for us in **John 17:3**. That we might KNOW (by relationship- Greek word, ginosko) Him. But knowing Him always results in a flow of something (someone) in and out of my life. THAT is what I call purpose. In every situation of Jesus provisions, there was a PRESENCE of relationship that was desired, and out of that relationship flowed the purpose of God in their lives. So what then are the elements of a church/individual living in their purpose?

John 21: 15-21 gives us all of those elements.

1. Do you love me? Is God's love flowing in such a way that the heart of God is my heart?
2. Feed my sheep! It is not about what I receive that drives me, it is about what flows out of me. (Blessing others, living, teaching, ministering and sharing His life in me with others).
3. Who is in control? To the degree that I want to be in control... to that degree I will limit God. I cannot and must not call the shots. He will bless me with material provisions at times, He will lead me through waters deep at times, He will use me in miraculous ways at times, and He will absolutely ask sacrifices of me at times that will cause me to cry out, "let this pass from me... yet not my will but thine!!!"

ILLUSTRATION: Someone brought this home to my life this week from a home group. They talked of the helplessness they felt when getting an MRI. If only they could get it from the neck down. Don't close me off completely, give me some element of control. Don't leave me feeling utterly dependent, give me a remote in that machine which I can push the button of to get out if I panic. In fact, make it a placebo button if you have to, so at least I have the "SENSE OF CONTROL!!!"

4. What about him? Wouldn't it be nice if Jesus only asked of me things that everybody has to do. If only I could look at the person who seems to have it easier and take their road. Jesus never asks anything of you that He doesn't equip you for. And the equipping is HIM. HE DOES NOT CALL THE QUALIFIED, HE QUALIFIES THE CALLED. It is His call that you must respond to today. It is not your purpose that drives you, nor your ability, nor your position. It is His heart that needs to drive you, and out of that your purpose will flow, even when you don't realize it!!!

REFLECTIONS AND APPLICATION:

1. Can you think of a time in which you felt no control of your life?
2. Imagine that you are driving down the highway and suddenly for no apparent reason your car goes into a spin. What are your first thoughts? What are your thoughts afterwards?
3. What are those areas of life where you must hold the remote control? How would it feel to turn over the remote control, knowing you will not have any power of the programming?
4. Are there people or situations you would like to trade places with? Why?