

The Death of a Self-Made Man

Jn 21:1-25

- ▶ Nathaniel Bowditch: "Sailing by Ash Breeze"

Reunion at Galilee: "Children, do you have any fish?"

Jn. 21:1-14

- Jesus' posture is to serve rather than to be served.
- In this reunion, Jesus is embodying yet again what true disciple-making ministry looks like. It's slow. It's relational. He demonstrates that these men are his priority.
 - Who is God calling you to invest in? Your kids? A younger man or woman? Are you intentionally setting aside time to be a disciple-maker?

Reckoning with Reality: "Do you love me more than these?"

Jn 21:15-17

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me." **(Luke 22:31-34)**

"But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly. **(Luke 22:60-62)**

Vs. 15 "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Those like myself whose imagination far exceeds their obedience are subject to a just penalty; we easily imagine conditions far higher than any we have really reached. If we describe what we have imagined we may make others, and make ourselves, believe that we have really been there."

-C.S Lewis, *The Four Loves*, p. 192

- In our pride and self-sufficiency, we get to a place of thinking we can handle things that others can't. We're surprised when friends make foolish decisions or fall into patterns of sin.
- Why does Jesus ask these questions (vss 15-17)?
- The winds of grace have been blowing since Christ's finished work on the cross. What we need is to become so gripped *by* the gospel that we derive our motivation for spiritual growth *from* the gospel rather than the "ash breeze" of self-effort.

Restored to Mission: "Feed My lambs."

Jn 21:15-22

- Jesus goes beyond simply telling Peter, "we're ok."
- Peter's renewed commission comes with a grave note – Peter will be martyred. But despite that test of faith, this time Jesus adds no prophetic word about failure, denial, or sifting. Peter will live in the good of gospel restoration for the rest of his life.

A Humbled Peter, An Aged John

Jn. 21:23-25

▶ John, the last man standing

"So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ... *shepherd the flock* of God. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the proud but *gives grace to the humble.*'" (1 Pet 5:1-2, 5)

- Grace for what? Ministry to people.
- This is grace for *mission* – empowerment for the continued call to Christ-dependent living ("Apart from Me you can do nothing", 15:5) and Christ-dependent disciple-making ("Follow Me/Feed My Sheep", 15:15, 22).

Those who abandon self-sufficiency and "ash breeze Christianity" receive 1) grace from God to take the needed time to relate with those we're called to care for, 2) grace to reckon with the reality of prideful independence in our personal lives, and 3) grace to be restored again to the task after we've stumbled. In a word, God gives us grace to die to the self-made man.