

SERMON SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS, 04/27/14

John 21 — “To Be Continued...” Trent Hunter

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In a sentence: Jesus feeds his disciples a miraculous breakfast and sends them on an impossible mission to feed his sheep.

SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

- I. An Unforgettable Meal: Jesus Feeds His Apostles (1-14)
- II. An Unforgettable Mission: The Apostles Will Feed Jesus' Sheep (15-25)

HELP FOR UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

John 21 completes the story of Jesus' service to and sending out of his disciples. Breakfast is served and then Peter is restored and commissioned to shepherd God's people, the church.

1. When John writes “After this” what is he referring to? Take some time to recall all the events of the days leading up to this account of Jesus' subsequent revelation of himself.
2. Jesus serving the disciples breakfast is loaded with symbolism. Up until now, what are some of the ways in which Jesus had served them? (*his life, his presence, his death*) What is the Spiritual food he has been pointing them to all along? (*His word*)
3. Trent mentioned that chapter 21 is like a small picture of heaven. What were some of the parallels with this story and what heaven will be like? (*Night turns to day. An empty net is filled. Empty stomachs filled. John said, “it's the Lord!” Peter jumped out of the boat. The disciples spent three years with him and now they are speechless in his presence. All of this is only a hint at the awe we'll know when we see him face to face. When we see Jesus in all of his glory, we will be absolutely blown away. Blown away by his majesty and by his marvelous and personal love.*)
4. What circumstances in your life have ever made you wonder to yourself and others where Jesus is on your hard nights with an empty net like these disciples no doubt were? Any more recently? (*Business failing, body failing, a relationship falling apart*) Is there anything you are going through right now that tempts you to think that Jesus is uninterested in you and your life? (*Take time to*
5. What is John's purpose for including this specific miracle story in his account of Jesus' life and ministry? (*John 20:30-31 “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*)
6. What was Jesus doing when he asked Peter if he loved him three times? (see John 13:31-38, 18:15-18, 25-27) What words from Jesus (Scripture) have uprooted, uncovered, and confronted sin in your life recently? (Take time to confess sin, as well as celebrate Jesus' restorative work through the cross and resurrection on our behalf)
7. Who are the sheep Jesus is telling Peter to feed? What is the food he is to feed them? Are you a hungry sheep? Are your shepherds (pastors, elders) feeding you God's word faithfully? (*Take some time to pray for your leaders, and to ask God for a deep hunger for Christ and His word.*)
8. What did “stretch out your hands” undoubtedly mean to Peter when Jesus said it? (*be crucified*) When Jesus told Peter how he would die, Peter is given over to the temptation to compare himself to others. In what ways are you tempted to compare yourself to other believers? (*When you suffer physically and others don't, not picked for that ministry position, suffered an acute trial in a relationship*) What comfort can we have when tempted to compare? (*Jesus is in charge of this mission, we are called to love and share and work, what Jesus has for others is his business, not ours.*