***~ READ TEXT ~***

AS YOU SETTLE IN…

- Turn to the book of (John 21) NLT

* Read (21:1-3)

***~ LET’S PRAY ~***

NOTE TAKERS…

- I’ve titled today’s message…

* *“Experiencing Restoration”*

***~ INTRO ~***

WE’RE PICKING UP TODAY…

- At the end of the fourth Gospel…

* With an epilogue from the John the disciple.

HE HAS CONCLUDED…

- By telling us about three appearances of Jesus’ post-resurrection…

* Mary & the other women (at the tomb)
* The group of disciples (behind locked doors)
* Thomas (Eight days later)
* Plus, he underscores his **intent** in writing his gospel.

*But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name. (John 20:31) NLT*

HE ENDS HIS BOOK…

- By giving us one more thing…

* To make sure his readers are aware…
  + Of what happened to Peter.

***~ SET THE CONTEXT ~***

REMEMBER WITH ME BACK TO THE PASSOVER MEAL…

- Where Jesus would have his last meal with His disciples…

* And Judas leaves to betray Him…
  + What did Peter say?
    - (Matthew 26:33-35) NLT

THEN… DURING JESUS TRIAL AT THE HIGH PREISTS HOME…

- Peter joined with some guards and other bystanders around a fire…

* Where he was questioned 3 times about his association to Jesus…
  + And each time he denied knowing him.

- He even denied Jesus with a curse on the last time…

* *“May I be cursed if I’m lying…”*

*At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord’s words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.” (Luke 22:61) NLT*

PETER SHOULDN’T HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY THIS…

- Jesus even told him that he was going to be **sifted**…

* And that he would need to come back to strengthen his brothers.

***~ STUDY ~***

AS A CHURCH… WE HAVE BEEN IN A SEASON OF SIFTING…

- Many of us have gone through various hardships…

* That have been designed to test our faith…
  + And sift us along the way.
    - (Approve by trials & afflictions)
      * F. family
      * F. finances
      * H. health

I CAN LOOK ACROSS THIS ROOM…

- And see many who have been tested in each of these areas…

* Surgeries & sicknesses
* Financial hardship & job loss
* Family frustration & fighting
* Some have moved forward in the strength of the Lord…
  + Some have failed along the way.

WHEREVER YOU FIND YOURSELF TODAY…

- This text is all about restoration…

* The restoration of Peter after his failures in following Jesus!
  + And the restoration He offers you and I!

**~ IDEA # 1 – “Breakfast By The Sea” (vv. 1-14) ~**

(v. 4-5)

AFTER PETER AND THE DISCIPLES…

- Fished all night & caught nothing…

* Someone showed up to ask about their efforts…

PETER WAS NOT LOOKING FOR JESUS…

- And he wasn’t waiting for Him to show up…

* But Jesus perused Peter after his sifting & suffering.

- Which means: Jesus seeks us out in ours!

(v. 6)

NOW JESUS DIRECTS THEM…

- To fish on the other side of the boat…

* And they experience great success!
  + They struggle to haul in the net.

PETER DIDN’T ASK FOR HELP…

- But Jesus was willing to offer new direction…

* And provide a path of success…
  + To encourage Peter.

- But this is interaction is reminiscent of when Jesus first called him…

* (Luke 5:1-11) NLT

JESUS WILL ALWAYS…

- Point back to when He first saved us…

* As a memorial of His love for us.

(v. 7-11)

JOHN REALIZES IT’S JESUS AND TELLS PETER…

- He responds with impulsivity…

* Jumps in the water to swim to shore…
  + Leaving the disciples behind him.

WHEN THEY ARRIVE TO JESUS…

- He already has some food prepared for them…

* But allows them to contribute what they’ve caught.

(vv. 12-14)

JESUS INVITES THEM TO EAT BREAKFAST…

- Even though he doesn’t need the sustenance…

* Serving them the bread & the fish.

- This interaction is rich with symbolism…

* Fish = first catch
* Bread = feeding of 5000
* Fire/charcoal = denial
  + Each remind of Peter’s past ministry with Jesus…
    - And current failure.

EACH TIME JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES…

- He always declares peace over them…

* And usually eats food with them…
  + Underscoring the relationship he desires!
    - (Not reprimands / instructions / directions)

- Think about you and I…

* We usually sense condemnation…
  + But that’s not Jesus’ intent.
    - (Romans 8:34-35) NLT

HERE’S THE POINT WHEN IT COMES TO RESTORATION…

- Jesus **peruses** us in our failures…

* He **redirects** us into success…
  + By **revitalizing** our relationship!

**~ IDEA #2 – “Confronted With Love” (vv. 15-17) ~**

IN OUR CULTURE…

- We tend to think of love as a feeling instead of an action…

* That only tells people good & nice things…
  + But true love tells the truth – even when it hurts!

(v. 15-17)

JESUS CONFRONTS PETER…

- In front of the other disciples…

* Appropriate because his statement was made publicly…
  + (Matt. 26:33).

JESUS DOESN’T LET PETER OFF THE HOOK…

- Even though they’ve had breakfast…

* And Jesus has shown kindness & encouragement…
  + Just because we don’t talk about it…
    - Doesn’t mean it goes away!
      * He holds him accountable.

WE SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT…

- The use of the Greek language here as Jesus & Peter talk…

* (*Agape* vs. *Phileo*)

- *Agape* = The highest love / sacrificial & divine

- *Phileo* = Friendly / fondness / brotherly love

JESUS ASKS PETER…

- Do you *agape* (x2) & (x1) *phileo*

* Each time Peter responds with *phileo.*

EACH TIME JESUS ASKS PETER ABOUT HIS LOVE…

- Peter had to recognize where he wanted to be…

* And realize where he was.
  + Finally… Jesus meets peter where he’s.

- We can see Jesus commission Peter…

* In his humility NOT his prideful ability
  + *(1 Cor. 11:28) NLT*

*“… you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup”*

THIS SHOWS US…

- Jesus heart is for restoration…

* But sometimes that means a tough conversation...
  + And self-examination.

**~IDEA #3 – “Eyes On Jesus” (vv. 18-23) ~**

(vv. 18-19)

FINALLY… JESUS GIVES PETER INSIGHT...

- On how he will die for him in the future…

* (Crucifixion)

HE ALSO DRAWS A DISTINCTION IN PETER’S LIFE…

- *Younger* = New, recent; New in relation to time, fresh.

* You dressed yourself & went were you pleased.
  + (You were led by your comfort & your desires)

- *Older* = old in years.

* Someone else will dress you & someone else will lead you
  + (You’ll do the things someone else will tell you to do)

- I’ve called you to a life of humility…

* (Sacrifice & service)
  + (Luke 9:23-24) NLT

- Jesus is teaching Peter what it looks like…

* To experience restoration in his life…
  + It’s God allowing sifting / hardship / failure…
    - To bring about a humble obedience…
      * That will glorify Him!

(vv. 20-21)

AFTER HEARING THIS…

- Peter turns around to look at John…

* And ask Jesus about what will happen to him.

IT’S HARD TO FOLLOW JESUS…

- When we’re distracted by how we compare to others…

* Wondering if our walk of faith…
  + Measures up to what they’re doing.

*“… they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant! (2 Cor. 10:12) NLT*

- May that relieve the pressure of performance…

* So we can receive the restoration Christ is offering us!

(vv. 22-23)

JESUS REITERATES HIS COMMAND TO PETER…

- By telling him to make his aim…

* Follow Me!

- What I’ve called John to…

* Doesn’t change how you should live your life.

*“When you put Jesus Christ first in your ministry, you stop watching others. You stop passing judgement on what they do, or what God does with them”* Warren Wiersbe – On Being A Servant

PETER WOULD BE USED BY GOD…

- To birth the Church in (Acts)…

* By bringing salvation to the Jews & Samaritans.
  + Distinguishing himself as a leader among the Apostles.
    - (Motorcycle class)

- In order to be a good leader, he would have to be a good follower!

THE WHOLE FOCUS OF THIS CHAPTER…

- Is the restoration & recommissioning of Peter…

* But here’s what restoration looks like in our lives…
  + (Heb. 12:1-2) NLT

***~ COMMUNION (WORSHIP TEAM ~***

TODAY… JESUS IS OFFERING…

- The same restoration to you and me…

* As we partake of communion.

- Jesus stepped down to pursue us with a radical love…

* Allowing us to examine ourselves & confront our sin…
  + Re-adjusting our focus onto a life following Him.