

## Reel Moms...Beyond Type Casting

### Core Competency **Joy**

John 21:15-23

### Core Competencies

#### Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

#### Core Practices

- Worship Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

#### Core Virtues

- Love
- **Joy**
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility

Dear Friends,

A pastor friend that I know has a little expression that he uses to encourage people not to compare themselves (or their possessions, their life, their trials, etc) with that of others. It's this: "Keep your nose in your own bag." I like that. It's pretty easy to drift off into either pride or discouragement when we compare ourselves with others. While this week's message will focus particularly on Mothers, we would all benefit by applying God's truth to our own lives in this area. I pray that you'll find "your own bag" is right where God wants you to be.

Traveling together,

*Richard Gotthardt*

## Engaging Our Minds & Hearts

### Day 1

#### Today's Passage: John 21

God gave us His Word so we would know Him better, and love and trust Him more. Before you begin to read and meditate on His Word, go to Him in prayer. Ask Him to clearly speak to your mind and your heart so you would grow in your love for Him and your trust in His desires and plans for you.

This week's study is focused on the story of Jesus' exchange with Peter in John Chapter 21. Today read through **John 21** several times. Get the overall picture of what is happening at this time.

Answer the following questions to help you set the context of this conversation between Jesus and Peter.

1. Who are the main people mentioned in this chapter?
2. What are the main events that happen within this chapter?
3. When is this happening? Verse 1 starts with "after these things." After what things?
4. Where is this taking place?

## Day 2

### Today's Passage: John 21:15-17

#### *Pray first!*

Let's look closely at the conversation between Jesus and Peter. Read verses 15-17 several times.

1. Make a chart that lists each question Jesus asks, Simon Peter's response to the question, and the command that follows his response.
2. The first question Jesus asks differs slightly from the next two. What is that subtle difference?
3. There are several ways to interpret this question. One interpretation is that Jesus is asking Peter if he loves Jesus more than the other disciples love Jesus. Jesus may have intended it this way because at one time Peter boasted he would never forsake Jesus even if everyone else did (Mark 14:29). Another interpretation may be, "Peter, is your love for me greater than your love for fishing, or your love for these other disciples?" Either way, what is Peter's response to Jesus' question? What does he affirm besides his love for Christ?
4. Does Jesus seek any further explanation or demonstration of Peter's love prior to giving him an assignment or command?
5. Close out your time today allowing God to ask the same question of you. "Do you love me more than these?" Are there things or people in your life that you love more than you love Jesus? Would you hesitate to affirm that you love Him more than you love anyone or anything else? Could you also answer affirmatively knowing that as Peter stated, "You (*Lord*) know that I love you"?

## Day 3

### Today's Passage: John 21:15-19

#### *Pray first!*

Today we will look closely at the assignment/commands that the Lord gave to Simon Peter.

1. Read through John 21:15-19. What specifically is the first command? The second? The third?

The meaning of the word "tend" in verse 15 and 17 is to feed. It portrays the duty of one to promote in every way the spiritual welfare of the members of the church.

The term "my lambs" refers to Christ's "little ones"...the "baby Christians." When you think of the feeding or promoting in every way the spiritual welfare of the young and immature Christians, it is a picture of a very important responsibility and one that requires much time, energy and devotion to do it properly.

The Greek word translated as "shepherd" in verse 16 includes the following definitions:

"to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep; to rule, govern; to furnish pasture for food; to nourish; to cherish one's body, to serve the body; to supply the requisites for the souls' need."

These commands/assignments must have been very important to our Lord. He was asking Peter to take responsibility for the feeding and nurturing of those for whom He had given His very life.

2. As you ponder the significance of this assignment, notice what was the only thing Jesus asked of Peter?
3. What does this signify to you? What is the single most important thing to Jesus about you?
4. After Jesus gives these three commands, which are very significant, what does He then talk to Peter about?
5. He also gives Peter one more command at the end of verse 19. What is that command? Why might Jesus give this command at this point in their conversation?
6. Do you think that this command was specific to the assignment He had just given to Peter?
7. Is this command applicable to all believers regardless of their specific responsibilities or positions within the church?
8. Is this command for you? Why or why not?

## Day 4

**Today's Passages: John 21:20-23, Matthew 14:26-32, Matthew 16:13-23, Matthew 26:30-75**

***Pray first!***

1. Read carefully through these four passages and sum up what the conversation is now about.
2. Now we will look at several different times in Peter's life, where he lost his focus on Jesus and what He was saying and consequently he faltered in his "following." Read through each passage and note the similarities that you see in regards to this human frailty.
  - Matthew 14:26-32
  - Matthew 16:13-23
  - Matthew 26:30-75
3. Ask God to speak to your heart about your focus. Are you too easily distracted from your relationship and your devotion to God? Are you more concerned about others and what they are or are not doing than on what God is asking or commanding of you?

## Day 5

### Let Your Balloon Go

There was a conference at a Presbyterian church in Omaha. People were given helium-filled balloons and told to release them at some point in the service when they felt like expressing the joy in their hearts. Since they were Presbyterians, they weren't free to say "Hallelujah, Praise the Lord." All through the service balloons ascended, but when it was over, one-third of the balloons were unreleased. Let your balloon go!

Bruce Larson, *Luke*, p. 43<sup>1</sup>

The core competency we are focusing on this week is the **virtue of joy**. Our creed for this virtue says, "***I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.***" The key verse is **John 15:11**, "***I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.***"

The assessment statements that help us to evaluate our lives and their reflection of this virtue are:

1. I have inner contentment even when things go wrong.
2. Circumstances do not dictate my mood.
3. I am excited about the sense of purpose I have for my life.
4. I can be content with the money and possessions I now have.

As we have looked closely at God's Word this week, how might He want to apply the truths that He has revealed to you and to speak to your mind, your heart, and your life? Take time to pray and ask Him to help you to evaluate the joy and contentment in your life. Tell Him that it is your desire to "follow" Him in the unique calling He has given to you and to find true joy and contentment in your relationship with Him.

<sup>1</sup>Galaxie Software. (2002; 2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.

### John 21:15-23 Jesus Reinstates Peter

This week's passage occurs at the end of John's Gospel. Jesus has been crucified and resurrected. In the first 14 verses of chapter 21 Jesus appears to a group of disciples. This passage is markedly different as Jesus appears to Peter alone. The fact that John puts this peculiar passage in his gospel is evidence that he is trying to make a strong point about Jesus and Peter's relationship. Peter had denied Jesus three times during Jesus' darkest hour. How was this man, who was supposed to be the lead apostle supposed to lead the church after his three denials of Christ? Most commentators see the following scene as Peter's reinstatement. It is Jesus saying, "I forgive you, believe in you and am entrusting my church to you." (Matthew 16:18)

What is helpful?  
What could be better?  
What is missing?  
Is it helping you be more prepared for Sunday?

Send your feedback to  
[engage@gccaz.org](mailto:engage@gccaz.org)

**<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."**

- Some commentators find many links between this scene and the scene when Peter denies Jesus three times. For instance, there are burning coals (21:9) in this scene. Could this have been a reminder to Peter of the fire he was near when he denied Jesus (18:25)?
- The phrase "more than these" is difficult. On one hand, it could mean Peter's fishing equipment. In this case, Jesus was reminding Peter where he had come from as a fisherman and how Peter had chosen to return to his past life. A more likely option is that Jesus is asking Peter if he loves Jesus more than the other disciples love Jesus. This is grammatically more likely. If this is the case, Jesus is referring to the fact that Peter had once asserted that he loved Jesus more than any other of the disciples (John 13:36-37). Now Jesus is asking him if he still wants to make that confession.

**<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." <sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.**

- Note the link between the three denials of Peter and Jesus' asking three times if Peter loves Him. Is Jesus bringing Peter to the realization of his sin?
- Much has been made of the difference in the word for "love" in the three questions. In the first two questions Jesus uses the Greek word "agapao." In the third question Jesus changes to "phileomai." Some have said that Jesus is saying, "Peter, do you even love Me like a brother? Never mind unconditional love!" However, in Greek these two words are often used interchangeably, so we want to be careful not to make too much out of this.

**<sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, "Follow me!"**

- This verse is a rare prophetic statement from Jesus. Jesus prophesies about the way Peter would be martyred. Tradition holds that he was crucified upside down.

**<sup>20</sup> Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?")**

- John was here referring to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." The reference in this verse goes back to the Last Supper (13:24).

**<sup>21</sup> When Peter saw Him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow Me." <sup>23</sup> Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"**

- It is interesting that John most likely wrote this after Peter had already been martyred. He is clarifying misunderstandings among the early church about the role of the different apostles. On one hand, John makes it clear that Peter had been reinstated by Jesus to lead the church. On the other hand, he is clear about his own special relation to Jesus.