

JOHN 13:36-38
January 22, 1989
ROME GEORGIA
May 3, 2015

SUBJECT: Christ's departure and Peter's presumption.

THEME: Following Jesus is not a verbal commitment, it is an attitude that flows from our love for Him.

PROPOSITION: How are you trying to follow Jesus today? Is it with your words? Is it in your fellowship with other believers? **Or is it in your personal love for him?**

Up to this point in John 13 – Jesus has been dealing with a couple of issues that needed to be cleared up. The Disciple's wrong attitudes and expectations and the matter of an imposter in their midst.

Joh 13:30 *Judas* then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

Judas was the textbook case of one who had all the trappings of a follower of Jesus – but none of the substance of a true follower.

Jesus warned His true followers and US TODAY about the reality of [phony-followers](#) many times.

John MacArthur points out that Jesus referred to them as:

- **Seed** that fell by the roadside on rocky soil [Matt. 13:3-7](#)
- **Tares** that grow among the wheat – [Matt. 13: 24-30](#)
- **Bad fish** that are thrown away – [Matt. 13:47-48](#)
- **Goats** condemned to eternal Punishment – [Matt: 25:33, 41](#)
- **Foolish virgins** shut out of the wedding feast – [Matt. 25:-12](#)
- **Those left standing outside** when the head of the house shuts the door. [Luke 13:25-27](#)

I. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHRIST'S DEPARTURE

II. THE ANNUNCIATION OF PETER'S DISCIPLESHIP

III. THE ACTUALITY OF PETER'S DENIAL

READ [13:31-38](#)

I. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHRIST'S DEPARTURE (recap from [33-6](#))

Jesus is going to be with the father – and those of his true followers must now **emulate** and **demonstrate** the love of Jesus to one another.

The **modus operandi** for the church during this age of grace is to **LOVE ONE ANOTHER** – and by following this command – the world will recognize us as followers of Jesus.

NFL Player Reveals 'Our Only Hope for Reconciliation' in Brutally Honest Post About the Baltimore Riots: 'Systems Are Broken Because People Are Broken'

New Orleans Saints' tight end Benjamin Watson **captured the world's attention with [a viral Facebook post](#).**

“ I am convinced that the love of God for our fellow brothers and sisters who were created in His image, is our only hope for reconciliation.” “Tonight I see a brokenness that only Christ can give us the wisdom and power to mend,”

II. THE ANNUNCIATION (*proclamation*) OF PETER'S DISCIPLESHIP JOHN 13:37

John 13:36-7 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, **Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.**

Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? **I will lay down my life for thy sake.**

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO FOLLOW THE LORD JESUS CHRIST? IS IT JUST A MATTER OF SAYING, AS PETER DOES IN OUR PASSAGE THIS MORNING, "WHY CANNOT I FOLLOW THEE NOW? I WILL LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THY SAKE."

MATT. 4:18-20

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, **FOLLOW ME**, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and **FOLLOWED HIM**.

But now, after three years of **following Jesus**, there were still things in Peter's life that needed to be resolved.

Peter was one who operated on the **impulse of the moment**. Sometimes this was good, as when he **first followed Jesus**, at other times, it was not so good, as when he **cut off the High Priest's servant's ear in the garden**.

Peter was caught up in the emotion of the moment.

Peter has already acknowledged Jesus as God, **John 6:69** **"And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

On another occasion Matt. 16:16 **". . . . Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

A traitor in their midst has been revealed.

Jesus has just given a new commandment.

Jesus informs them that he is leaving and that they will be unable to come with him.

PETER HAD BEEN ON AN EMOTIONAL ROLLER-COASTER.

ONE MOMENT PETER IS DECLARING TO JESUS "THOU SHALT NEVER WASH MY FEET" AND THE NEXT HE SAYS "LORD, NOT MY FEET ONLY, BUT MY HANDS AND MY HEAD."

IT TAKES MORE THAN AN EMOTION OF THE MOMENT TO GET US TO TRULY COMMIT OUR LIVES TO THE SERVICE OF THE LORD.

- **WALKING IN THE STEPS OF JESUS DID NOT MAKE A FOLLOWER OUT OF PETER.**
- **A MOUNTAIN-TOP EXPERIENCE ON THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION DID NOT MAKE A FOLLOWER OUT OF PETER.**
- **EATING COMMUNION WITH THE LORD HIMSELF DID NOT MAKE A FOLLOWER OUT OF PETER.**

- **A VERBAL PROFESSION OF UNDYING DEVOTION DID NOT MAKE A FOLLOWER OUT OF PETER.**
- **WITNESSING THE CRUCIFIXION DID NOT MAKE A FOLLOWER OUT OF PETER.**
- **WITNESSING THE RISEN SAVIOUR DID NOT MAKE PETER A FOLLOWER.**

WHAT THEN DOES IT TAKE TO BE A **FOLLOWER** OF JESUS ? (not speaking of "believer" but true follower)

John 13 IS STILL **BEFORE THE CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION** .

BUT EVEN **AFTER THE RESURRECTION**, THE **APOSTLES WENT BACK TO FISHING**.
JOHN. 21:1-9

21:1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he *himself*.

21:3 **Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing.** They say unto him, **We also go with thee.** They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

IT WOULD NOT BE UNTIL PETER SETTLED THE "LOVE QUESTION " THAT HE **TRULY BEGAN TO FOLLOW JESUS!**

JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE **THE FISHING TRIP** IN **JOHN 21** , PETER HAD VOWED THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW THE LORD, EVEN UNTO DEATH.

THEN, AROUND ANOTHER FIRE, HE HAD **THREE TIMES DENIED THAT HE EVEN KNEW THE LORD.**

NOW, JESUS ADDRESSES HIM AGAIN, AS HE HAD AT THE FIRST, **JN. 1:42**, ". . . Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephaz."

"SIMON, SON OF JONAH, LOVEST THOU ME MORE THAN THESE?"

READ **John 21:15-19** .

"LOVEST THOU ME MORE THAN THESE ? "

THREE TIMES HE ASKS THE QUESTION, THREE TIMES PETER ANSWERS.

IF YOU WILL RECALL, THERE WERE LIKEWISE **THREE QUESTIONS ASKED OF PETER IN HIS DENIAL (18: 17, 25, & 27.)** **LIKEWISE, PETER'S IMPATIENCE GROWS** WITH EACH REPETITION.

cf. **Matt. 26:74** Then began he to **curse and to swear**, *saying*, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. (*Peter did not want to be identified as a follower of Jesus. His desperate use of cursing was meant to send a clear signal that he was not a religious fanatic.*)

BUT UNLIKE THE OTHER INQUISITION (Matt. 26) , here in **John 21**, **PETER SPEAKS THE TRUTH.**

BEFORE PETER COULD FOLLOW JESUS - HE HAD TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE CORRECT ANSWER TO THE "LOVE QUESTION".

"LOVEST THOU ME MORE THAN THESE? "

Peter Was Not In A Class By Himself - **ALL OF US MUST ASK OURSELVES THE SAME QUESTION - IN FACT, IT IS A QUESTION THAT JESUS HAD PREVIOUSLY ASKED OF THE MULTITUDES.**

Lk. 14:

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Jesus then uses two illustrations, **(1)** that of a man who builds a tower, and **(2)** that of a king contemplating war, to **illustrate that discipleship must include both planning and sacrifice**

THIS MEANS THAT IF WE ARE TO TRULY FOLLOW JESUS, WE MUST BE WILLING TO PUT HIM FIRST, AND OURSELVES LAST. (*Just as Jesus had demonstrated in washing the disciples feet*)

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT VERY FEW ARE WILLING TO DO:

Luke 9:57 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

58 And Jesus said unto him, **Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.**

THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO OPPENLY PROFESS A DESIRE TO FOLLOW THE LORD –

But

Lk. 9: (IN 59 AND 61 THE PROBLEM IS ALWAYS HAVING TO DEAL WITH THE "**ME FIRST**" ATTITUDE

L u k e 9 :59 And he said unto another, **FOLLOW ME.** But he said, Lord, suffer **ME FIRST** to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, **Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.**

61 And another also said, LORD, I WILL FOLLOW THEE; but let **ME FIRST** go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

FOLLOWING JESUS MEANS PUTTING **JESUS FIRST.** IT MEANS HAVING A **CHRISTIOCENTRIC LIFE-STYLE.** IT MEANS KEEPING YOUR EYE AND YOUR HEART ON JESUS. IT MEANS **NO LOOKING BACK.**

III. THE ACTUALITY OF PETER'S DENIAL JOHN 13:38

PETER HAD BEEN RUNNING ON WHIMSICAL EMOTIONS FOR TOO LONG. NOW IN HIS **ANNUNCIATION OF HIS INTENTION TO FOLLOW THE LORD,** JESUS MUST MAKE PETER COME TO GRIPS WITH THE TRUE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

WHEN PETER ACKNOWLEDGED HIS LOVE FOR CHRIST, AND ACKNOWLEDGED OPENLY THAT THIS LOVE EXCEEDED ALL OTHERS, THEN CHRIST, (IN **JN. 21:18,**) REVEALS PETER'S "GETHSEMANE".

PETER COULD NOW, (AS CHRIST HAD DONE IN **13:31**) BREATHE EASIER. THE ICE WAS BROKEN. THERE WAS NO MORE FEAR BECAUSE, "PERFECT LOVE CASTETH OUT FEAR!"

I John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: [because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.]

WHEN PETER CORRECTLY ANSWERED THE "LOVE QUESTION" AND CAME TO GRIPS WITH ITS IMPLICATIONS, JESUS COULD THEN TELL HIM:

NOW, IN LIGHT OF THE NEW RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED IN LOVE, NOW CHRIST SAYS TO PETER – **FOLLOW ME !**

John 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, "**Follow me.**"

JOHN 21:20 PETER, LIKE SO MANY OF US, **THOUGHT OF OTHERS FIRST**, (*SARCASTICALLY*)

WELL, WHAT ABOUT JOHN!

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, **If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.**

JESUS CHRIST CHOSE 12 MEN TO WALK WITH HIM - HE IS STILL LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN.

WE HAVE A **NEW COMMANDMENT FROM CHRIST** - IT IS THAT WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST HAS LOVED US. WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO OBEY THIS COMMAND UNTIL WE LOVE CHRIST ABOVE ALL ELSE! HE MUST BE PREEMINENT IN OUR LIVES.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **IF A MAN LOVE ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORDS:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

John 14:21 HE THAT HATH MY COMMANDMENTS, AND KEEPETH THEM, HE IT IS THAT LOVETH ME: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Illustrations:

May 2, 2015 - **Floyd Mayweather's** clinical win over **Manny Pacquiao** (*pack-e- ano*) shows brilliance. I only saw 30 seconds of the fight, and I saw it today, the day after the fight. Manny P. was flailing away at Floyd M. and Mayweather seemed to be just standing there taking it. (FM won in "a decision")

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New Orleans Saints' tight end Benjamin Watson captured the world's attention with [a viral Facebook post](#) he wrote last November about the protests in Ferguson, proclaiming that "sin is the reason we are racist" and encouraging people to turn to God.

This week, Watson followed that message up with another pointed response to the chaos unfolding in Baltimore over the death of Freddie Gray.

"We have major problems as a nation. Yesterday Ferguson burned. Tonight #Baltimore burns. Tomorrow it will be another city in our homeland," Watson [wrote Tuesday on his Facebook page](#). "Watching the coverage I'm hearing yet another version of a nauseatingly familiar narrative. Violence by police reciprocated by violence by the community, reciprocated by violence by police reciprocated by.... It seems fruitless to continue to analyze, condemn, and respond to these dreadful episodes."

Rather than addressing the periphery issues, Watson said that it is essential to begin diving into the true catalyst for the unrest, calling for people to show “the love of God” and for the Lord to change peoples’ hearts and minds.

“Tonight I see ‘smoke,’ but we must address the fire. The response that we are watching is just ‘smoke’ from years of hopelessness,” he continued. **“After each situation the more I am convinced that the love of God for our fellow brothers and sisters who were created in His image, is our only hope for reconciliation.”**

Watson concluded his message by calling for peace, prayer and justice for all.

“Tonight I see a brokenness that only Christ can give us the wisdom and power to mend,” [he said.](#)