



Sunday Teaching Guide

That You May Believe, Week 8

April 30, 2023

Bible Texts

- John 21:1-19
- Mark 14:27-31
- Mark 14:66-72
- John 3:16

Important Terms

- In the Gospel of John, the first two times that Jesus asks Peter if he loves him, Jesus uses a form of the Greek word for love "agape", which some say refers to an unconditional, Godly love. Peter, however, uses the Greek word for love "philo", which some say refers to a love of friendship. The third time Jesus asks Peter if he loves him, Jesus uses the Greek word "philo" instead of "agape."

Sermon Notes

- Before his crucifixion, Jesus predicted that the disciples would deny him. Peter insists that he will not disown him; however, Jesus says that Peter will deny him three times. When the time comes, Peter does deny him. Peter wasn't perfect. But the mercy and grace of God is perfect, and in the rest of his story we see that mercy and grace, and an invitation to believe that it's possible for us too.
- After Jesus' resurrection, he appears to the disciples on the beach while they are fishing. After eating with them, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him. Each time, Peter responds that he does. Jesus tells him to follow him. The act of repentance is found in the invitation to follow. Peter's admission to loving Jesus three times cancels out his three denials. The experience of Jesus' unconditional love is only dependent on us accepting it.
- Like Peter, we sometimes deny Jesus by distancing ourselves from his love and his teachings. We deny him by not living the life that we have said that we would live for him. However, the Jesus invites us to confess our love for him time and again.
- We should be thankful that scripture is a collection of stories of ordinary, broken people loved by God and made holy through a righteousness outside of themselves. We should also be thankful that God's church, which is humbly exploring the way of Jesus, are also ordinary, broken people loved by God, and made holy through a righteousness outside of ourselves.

Reflection Questions

- When Jesus tells Peter to "feed my lambs", "take care of my sheep" and "feed my sheep", what do you think he is referring to?
- How would you explain that it's important to demonstrate our love for Jesus by performing actions?
- How do you imagine that Peter felt when Jesus continued to ask Peter if he loved him even after he had responded that he did?
- Have you been in a situation where someone questioned your love or devotion? What was that experience like?
- Ryan said that scripture is full of stories of ordinary, broken people loved by God. What other examples besides Peter can you think of?
- Can you think of a time in which you felt God's immense grace and mercy? What is that feeling like?
- What are some ways that you can show the world God's immense grace and mercy in your daily life?
- What is something from this Easter series that you want to remember and apply most in your life?

Prayer for the Week

- God of victory over death, your Son revealed himself again and again, and convinced his followers of his glorious resurrection. Grant that we may know his risen presence, in love obediently feed his sheep, and care for the lambs of his flock, until we join the hosts of heaven in worshiping you and praising him who is worthy of blessing and honor, glory and power, for ever and ever. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Acts 9:1-20
- Psalm 30
- Revelation 5:11-14