

## THE BLACKLIST | THE EPILOGUE | Week 8 April 28, 2019

### John 21

**Opening:** After our seven-week Lenten reflection on the opposition that Jesus encountered on the way to the cross we ended last week in the triumph of the resurrection. Hallelujah, Christ is risen!! During last week's message there was the agony of Friday, the doubt and confusion of Saturday and the glorious triumph and joy of Sunday. Today we look at Monday. The disciples are still trying to get their head around what this all means.

**Context:** The day is confusing to the disciples. Jesus is not dead, he is risen from the dead—He is ALIVE. What does that mean? What are we to do now? Did he arise to lead His new Kingdom here on earth? Why was I so downcast and afraid? Why did I doubt? Why did I fall asleep when He was praying? I denied knowing my Rabbi and now we're hiding in a room (John 20). Did I lose my chance to be part of what He is going to do? Are we going to help lead that new Kingdom? He said so many things when He was with us, what did He mean? *Try to imagine yourself in the disciple's place. Talk about what thoughts, feelings and questions would be going through your heart and mind .*

**The Escape:** Read John 21: 1-3. Pastor Eric Haskins talked about our healthy need for escape. He also said ".....no longer about unwinding or learning something to enhance our life but becomes a way to hide from the pain, fear and doubts in life." *What is your typical escape? Have you ever had an unhealthy escape as Pastor Eric described?*

**A Gracious Instruction:** Read vs. 4-8. There is a similar account earlier in Peter's life (read Luke 5:1-11). *What are the similarities between these two passages? What are the differences? What is Jesus' motivation in each passage? What is Peter's response?*

**The Seaside Breakfast:** Read John 21:9-14. Pastor Eric states, "Jesus meets us in the midst of our fears, doubts and failures to love us towards following him." *What do you imagine the disciples needed on this third encounter with the Risen Christ? What parallels do you see with earlier meals or conversations the disciples had with Jesus? Imagine Jesus with you in the face of your fears, doubts and failures. What comes up in you? Talk about it with the group.*

**The Call:** Read John 21:15. Peter, always the first to speak, was singled out again by Jesus. (read Matt 16:15-18) He was invited to come back. *What do you think Peter was feeling the first time Jesus ask him "Do you love me more than these?" What do you think Jesus meant by "these"?*



**The Comparisons:** Much has been said about the three denials and the three times Jesus asked Peter to affirm his love. Read Matt 26:33. Prior to his denial Peter contrasted himself to the other disciples. *Could that be what Jesus meant by “these”? Have you ever boasted or declared in confident intensity that you would do something and then failed? Talk about how that felt. Peter did that and Jesus is giving him “therapy.” What is the therapy?*

**The “if” and “then”:** *What is implied in Jesus’ three questions? How does that apply to us as we work out our relationship with our Risen Christ? What is the role of shame and grace in this exchange between Peter and Jesus?*

**Our Struggle:** The disciples were human just like we are. They lived with fears, doubts and failures. They had “escapes” to take the pressure off. They needed Grace to overcome their shame so they could be re-instated and restored and move forward. They lapsed into “What about him?” thinking to justify themselves. *What was Jesus’ answer to the disciples? What is his answer to us?*

**Practice of the Week: Taking your SHAME to the Cross.**

Like Peter, we are ashamed when we doubt and fail and as a result we write ourselves off. “Let’s go fishing” we say, because in our eyes we will never measure up. Imagine Jesus asking you the question “Do you love me more than these?” What are “these” for you? But Jesus jumps right over the shame and the measuring. “I took care of that,” He says. You are OK. Put it down and let’s move on. Then imagine “Feed my lambs”. Meditate on John 21:15. What is Jesus inviting you to do?

**Family Formation: Jesus invites us back**

What can we pray about? The moment of truth in every discipline is at the end. “I’m disciplining your behavior but I still love and accept you, and I always will.” That’s what Jesus is saying to Peter. Teach that in simple language at dinner and then give a great hug to one another.

**Additional Resources:** As you heard from each of those preaching this week (Suanne Camfield, Eric Haskins and Dan Meyer) they each took a portion of John 21 and then gave the encouragement to watch the other two messages over the upcoming week to hear the whole chapter. You can find the other two messages for this week at [media.ChristChurch.us](http://media.ChristChurch.us).

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these scriptures and study guides in your lives.

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