

PERTH BIBLE CLASS

HE CAME TO WHERE THEY WERE STUDY 8

Morning in Galilee – John 21 v 1 – 22

The incidents in this chapter are unique to John and herald for us one of the last appearances of the Lord Jesus after his resurrection before his ascension to heaven as recorded in Acts 1. It is the third appearance to a group of disciples see v 14. For Peter the chapter will be the time where he will publicly be challenged on his love for the Lord. The man who three times had denied the Lord Jesus in the night prior to Him going to the cross will now on three occasions say “I love thee” v 15, v 16 and v 17.

We will consider the chapter grouping the sections under the characters involved.

- v 2 – 3 Peter and the disciples
- v 4 – 14 The Lord and the disciples
- v 15 – 19 The Lord and Peter
- v 20 – 25 The Lord and Peter and John

v 1 Although John does not include in his record the instructions of the Lord for the disciples to go to Galilee Mark does make this clear ch 16 v 7 of his gospel. The disciples are back on home ground. The point where many of them had heard that first call to “follow me”. However being on home ground may hold temptations for the Christian. Old habits, pastimes and even occupations may present a temptation as seems to happen here.

v 2 – 3 Peter was a man who could influence others and when he says “I go a fishing” how quick others are to respond “we also go with thee”. We all can be influencers of others. Sometimes for their benefit but sadly as here the possibility is that I might influence others to do something that I want to do which is not beneficial.

Examples could be Abram who took Lot to Egypt in Gen 12 and 13. When they returned Abram quickly took up the pilgrim character of tent dwelling but Lot soon was found in Sodom with disastrous consequences.

Nehemiah was able to influence people in the building of the wall at Jerusalem “let us build” Neh 2 v 17.

Joshua was an influencer of people even outwith his generation “Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua” Josh 24 v 31.

v 4 – 14 The Lord and the disciples

v 4 The Lord stands on the shore. Previously in the record of his resurrection he has stood with Mary 20 v 14, amongst the disciples 20 v 19 & 26 but now stress does seem to be placed in our verse on “the morning”. Could this be a

picture of the review of our service? He does ask the question “children have ye any meat” to which they answer “no”. In the day of review how would we answer.

v 5 Failure is exposed – nothing to give to the master.

v 6 / 8 Faith is strengthened – “cast the net --- ye shall find”. We need ever as individuals and as an assembly to be sensitive to the divine direction. The fact that a particular avenue of service has always been done at a particular time or place may not necessarily mean that it is being done now at the master’s request.

v 9 Food is provided – how wonderful that before they land any of the catch the fire is set and fish are already provided. What a God is our God.

v 10 There is still human responsibility so the instruction is given “bring of the fish which ye have now caught”. Again a review of the fruitfulness of my life may be in view.

v 11 The fish are individually accounted for and the fact that the net was not broken is a demonstration of the security that we as individual children of God enjoy.

v 12 – 14 The saviour gives a lovely invitation “come and dine”. A tired and possibly despondent group of servants are beautifully provided with the provision of His hand.

v 15 – 19 The Lord and Peter.

John will reveal to us in this section the three challenges of the Lord to Peter and his three public responses.

In the three challenges “lovest thou me” v 15, 16 & 17. The lord will use on the first two the word that best suits a description of Divine love. Peter cannot rise to this so in reply to the first two challenges he will respond with a word that means affection or attached to. In the third challenge the Lord uses Peter’s word and Peter is able to say “Lord thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee”. After he gives his response the Lord will give responsibility to Peter “Feed my lambs”. The word for food can be interpreted to give meat or in the case of v 16 to shepherd the sheep. Peter now restored to the Lord is given a whole new field of service. He will have responsibility to reach the lost but also to care for those who belong to the Lord. What a challenge for us. The later two verses of this section 18 & 19 are very much to do with the future for Peter. He is given assurance that he will live to be “old” v 18 but v 19 seems to indicate the manner of his death.

v 20 – 25 The Lord with Peter and John.

Peter having been given some indication of how he would die seems to be concerned now about John. Some have felt this is to do with John’s service but as the “do” is in italics and not part of the original manuscripts the context is to do not with service but suffering.

The lord makes it quite clear that the length of time or depth of any suffering that his people may undergo is all in his hand. The section concludes with reference to the imminence of the Lord’s return “till I come”. Here we suffer, Luke 19 v 13 we serve “occupy till I come”, 1 Cor 11 v 36 we remember His death “shew the Lord’s death till he come” and in Rev 2 v 25 we continue “hold fast till I come”.