

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. March 30th 2008

Easter People – Peter (and John)

John 22:15-25

Word:Key points from Sunday's sermon



Peter and the other disciples has seen the Risen Lord Jesus in Jerusalem and had gone to Galilee as he had instructed them. Here Peter returned to his old professional life. And whilst he is out fishing fails to catch anything. Jesus stands on the shore and tells them where to fish to make a catch and then cooks them all breakfast after a great haul.

Jesus comes right in to Peter's professional life (the office so to speak) and imparts sound and profitable advice , then gives the disciples what they really need, food and rest.

Only then does Jesus address the deep issues that makes for real peace in out lives, Provision rest and warmth are needed but they are not the real foundations for peace.

Peter had known Jesus' call to 'come and see' what Jesus was doing (John 1:39), he had seen all that Jesus did and heard all he said. He had been the key witness to who Jesus is. Verifying his brother Andrew's revelation that Jesus is the Messiah (John 1:41) with his own proclamation that not only is he the Messiah (the Christ) but he is indeed the Son of God. Jesus in turn had called him by name.. changing it form Simon, Son of John to Peter/Cephas which means Rock (John 1:42) and by declaring that upon this ROCK he would build his church, then almost in the next breath, as Peter protested that Jesus would not suffer and die, he calls Peter 'Satan'. Peter may have had the truth revealed to him Love. Peter blows it completely by denying any knowledge of Jesus, a Jesus had predicted he would, when Jesus was arrested. Jesus had told Peter then that after he had been sifted by Satan he would turn and strengthen his brothers. How could Peter do that? He had failed completely .

So Jesus takes him right back to where it all began, back to the 'office' where he became an apprentice, and he feeds him and gives him rest and warmth on a cold early morning. Then he asked questions of Peter that are deeper than any other questions he has asked him before. He calls him by his old familiar name and says 'Simon Son of John ,do you love me ?' Three times to wipe out the threefold denial of Jesus. Three times to search his heart so that all Peter could do was appeal to Jesus' own knowledge of him. Jesus wants us to clear out any thing we might latch on to to prove our love of Jesus other than our knowledge of Jesus and His knowledge of us. All other markers of our love are open to failure. As Peter has proved. He gives then a three fold commission to pastor the sheep that are Jesus, he is called to lead the church in mission and pastoral care and that he will die the death of a martyr, reflecting Jesus earlier teaching that the Shepherd gives his life for the sheep, remembering whose sheep they are. He is called to a distinctive mission . Peter's question about the 'other disciple' causes Jesus to focus in on Peter's call to 'Follow me'. Peter's call is dependant only on following Jesus , not what others are doing or are called to. The other disciple who wrote this Gospel called John has an equally vital calling, but it is different it was not to result in martyrdom, but resulted in the writing of Jesus acts and words as a testimony to who Jesus is. This is the witness of the church in written form



Witness:Questions to discuss

1. Read Psalm 139 : in worship pick out lines which speak to you today. Ask God in quietness to draw you closer to Him and help you open you heart to Him. Share with one another what your line is .
2. Which part of the John narrative strikes you, touches on your life, raises a question for you ? Why ?
3. In what ways has Jesus come along side you to provide for you (the Catch) ? To cook for you? To give you warmth and rest ? How might we receive this ministry from Jesus?

4. Jesus asked Peter many question throughout his life : Feeding of the 5000 ='you give them some thing to eat ;in crowd when woman touched him for healing ='who touched me ?' ; at Caesarea = 'Who do people say that I am ?' and now 'Do you love me?' What difficult question does Jesus ask you ?
5. Is it difficult to follow Jesus ? What part does small group meeting time play in your following of Jesus ?How can your time together become more open and honest so that you can deal with the difficulties ? How can you become more mission outwardly focussed.?
6. Spend time praying to hear Jesus call to you as a group of disciples. Listen/see what He is saying. How does he want you to pray for your witness , like Peter and John's, becomes even more evident to others ?