

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 10.08.2023

THE GOD OF ANOTHER CHANCE– JOHN 21

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

When you read John’s gospel it feels like the story wraps up nicely at the end of chapter 20. After describing the women’s experience at the empty tomb as well as his and telling us about Thomas’ encounter with the risen Lord in the Upper Room, John concludes the chapter by saying there were many other miracles that Jesus did, but these ones were selected to lead the reader to a point of belief. It seems like the book wants to end there, but we still have one more chapter to go. Why? Because the Lord still had some unfinished business to take care of with Peter.! Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Daniel’s sermon?
2. What expectations do you have as far as God using you for His purposes? Any? Why or why not?
3. Is there anything a person can do that can disqualify him or her from service to God? Why or why not?

No matter what happened in your past, the final chapter of your life is yet to be written. Jesus Christ can still use us where we are. God can use us in spite of our shortcomings so that we can be confident in serving Him.” Peter’s shortcomings help us know that restoration leads to expectation.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 21:1-14

1. Read Matt. 4:18-19 and Luke 22:55=57. Why do you think Jesus chose this moment to appear to Peter and the other disciples?
2. How were things left between Jesus and Peter prior to Jesus’ crucifixion?
3. When people questioned Peter about Jesus during Jesus’ trial, Peter denied any connection to Him. What does Peter’s rush to join Jesus say about him and his relationship with Jesus, in spite of what happened at the crucifixion?
4. Has shame over a past failure ever prevented you from running to Jesus? Why?

Peter’s lie at Jesus’ trial couldn’t have been further from the truth. He wouldn’t have been in the courtyard outside Jesus’ trial if he didn’t love Jesus, but fear and self-preservation kicked in, and he allowed those emotions to control him. Every disciple has a past. Every person has a past.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 21:15-17

1. How was Peter supposed to demonstrate his love and loyalty to Jesus?
2. If Jesus knows everything, and He does, then for whose benefit was His question to Peter?

“PROMISES” in 2023

3. What significance is there in the fact Jesus asks Peter the same question three times?

Though Peter denied Jesus, Jesus was not finished with him. He again issued His call to Peter to follow Him and to serve Him out of love for Him. Every person needs forgiveness. In this encounter with Peter, there’s no probation, no stipulation, no trial period. We don’t work for redemption; we work and serve from redemption.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 21:18-23

1. What kind of a future does Jesus describe for Peter here? Does this have to do with punishment or something else? How do you know?
2. What do you know about Peter’s life after this point?
3. In your own words, what was Jesus’ point in verse 22?

Every person has a future. Peter learned something about his and was curious about John’s. Jesus declined to give Peter the kind of answer he was seeking. The purpose of Jesus’ reply was to cause Peter to focus on his main task of following Jesus. Following Christ and helping His people require focus and a refusal to compare our circumstances with others’ circumstances. Jesus’ expectation is that Peter walks in the liberation of his redemption.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us “What I love about this story is how immediate Peter’s restoration is. Jesus doesn’t put Peter in time out or force him to sit on the bench for a while. He immediately put him back in the game. As I was preparing this message, I came across a true story about a college football game in which one of the players on a particular team recovered a fumble from the other team. That was good, but what happened next wasn’t. After he picked up the ball, he proceeded to run 65 yards in the wrong direction. Just before he scored for the other team, one of his own teammates tackled him at the goal line. This play happened just before half-time. As the second half started, everyone, including the player, assumed the coach would make him ride the bench for the rest of the game. However, to everyone’s surprise, when the second half started, he was sent right back onto the field. The coach wanted to send a message. One bad play doesn’t define a whole game. The same goes for you. You are more than the sum of your mistakes. God sent me here to tell you, the game’s not over! There’s a whole other half to play! And the game is won or lost in the second half!”

1. What fears do you have about your future in ministry for Christ? What can you do about those fears?
2. What expectations does God have of those who are saved, despite their pasts? How does this challenge you?

PRAYER: Thank God for the redemption He gives to His children. Invite Him to show you what it means to follow Him fearlessly and more closely in the liberation that comes with redemption.

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” {Ephesians 4:22-24}