Fishers of Men: Lessons on Discipleship

Lesson 7 “Lessons from 3 Disciples”

I.  Review and Introduction

A.  Introduction - Jesus was the ultimate fisher of men.  His goal was to replicate Himself in disciples and by extension each of us so He could fill the earth with His glory.

1.  We have looked at how the real mission of the is replication not just leading people to salvation.  ***Matthew 28:19***says to make disciples (devoted learners and followers).

2. Jesus began His ministry by selecting a small group of followers who He poured His life into.  He wanted to replicate Himself in them (by teaching, training, opportunities for experience) so when He ascended the church would outlast His time on the planet.  Spent more time with the 12 than the crowds to ensure His ministry would continue past His life on earth.

3.  Over the last couple of weeks, we have looked at what Jesus did when His disciples failed Him.

1. He seeded restoration by washing their feet and feeding them communion prior to His arrest.  **The number one responsibility of a leader is for their people to know they are loved and cared for.  This will cause them to run through a wall for you.**
2. Jesus prayed for the disciples.  He prayed their faith wouldn’t fail in the midst of temptation.

 B. Today we are going to look at Judas’s end, Peter’s restoration, and what happened to John.

II.  Lessons from 3 Disciples

1. Judas - Why Didn’t Judas make it?
2. **John 13:1-2**Satan entered Judas.
3. **John 12:6**- Judas lived in the presence of miracles and never dealt with the evil in his heart.  Satan didn’t just randomly enter him, Judas had been living in sin for an extended period of time.
4. Why didn’t Jesus replace Judas?  He was giving him an opportunity to repent.
5. In**John 17:12**Judas is called the Son of Perdition **(destruction).**
6. **Psalm 41:9**- Old Testament prophecy about Judas.  Was Judas destined for destruction?
7. Contradictory Example - **Jeremiah 18:7-10. Also, King Hezekiah.**
8. Judas didn’t make it because of his own personal choices.  While God had foreknowledge of what he would choose, he didn’t destine Judas to betray Jesus.  **Lesson - Not all of our disciples are going to make it**. **Even Jesus couldn’t help everyone because they wouldn’t cooperate.**
9. Peter - Jesus Spoke Destiny Over Peter
	1. **Luke 22:31-34**
	2. Jesus prophesied Peter’s future over him prior to his failure.  He saw where He was headed and spoke it into existence.  ***John 6:64***
		* 1. **John 21:15-19**This event happens right after Jesus appears to the disciples who have been fishing (symbolic of going back to their old way of life).
			2. Jesus once again performed the miracle of the miraculous catch.  After the catch, Peter and John came running toward Jesus.   Jesus cooked everyone breakfast on the shore.
			3. The first two times Jesus asks Peter does he love him he uses the word agape (unconditionally love) and Peter responds with phileo (affection).  The third time Jesus asks do you phileo (do you even have affection for me).  The point of this is to realize Peter no longer trusts his flesh anymore like he did when he made his bold proclamation.
			4. Jesus spoke destiny over Peter in his place of brokenness.  This enabled Peter to live by the power of the Holy Spirit.
			5. **Lesson - We must speak destiny over our disciples.** Ex**:** Jamie Seeger.
10. John - The Power of Knowing You Are Loved
11. **John 21:20-23**
	1. Peter asks a question about John (probably because of jealousy).  Jesus’s response is why does my plan for John matter to you?  **Lesson - We need to all learn to be satisfied with who we are called to be and not be jealous of others.**
	2. A rumor went out about John that he wouldn’t die.  That’s not the case.  Church history tells us he died.  Church history tells us he was the last to die (lived into his 90’s).
	3. Why was that?  Is it possible it's because John had the greatest revelation of the unconditional love of God?   **Faith works by love.**When we know how radically loved we are by Jesus, it causes our faith to work.
	4. **Lesson - We need to help those we are discipling experience the love of Jesus.  This will cause their faith to work.**
	5. Example – Pastor Lawson Charis Christian Center – Most loving environment I’ve ever been in. Got people to think they could do the impossible.

III.  Conclusion – Our responsibility is to be like Jesus and create the most loving environment possible for people and speak destiny over them in the midst of their failure/struggles. This will help folks grow into the fulness of who God has made them to be. We may occasionally get a Judas because gives free will, but our responsibility is to lead like Jesus.

1. Call Up Prayer Team
2. Pray Closing Prayer