



The Gospel According to John - Video 16

Thoughts from Grant Bishop on the Reading for Week of April 27: John 21:1-25

view the video at www.vimeo.com/fbcknox/gatjweek16

Video Transcript:

I like John's gospel. It's probably the *easiest* one for me to read--not that I *grasp everything*, I mean, I've been reading it for a lot of years, and every time I read it, it seems like there's something *new* that comes to me. I think perhaps that's the way it is with scripture in general. Chapter 21 in the Gospel of John--a couple things stand out to me. The first had to do with the fishing expedition. I remember, as a young adult my uncle was trying to help me raise money, and we did fishing by gill nets--what they call "hauling sand". So, when they went out in John's gospel, the 21st chapter, they went out with what amounts to a gill net, it's really a bell-shaped net, and they caught these fish, and they caught a *variety* of fish. And that got me to thinking about the Kingdom of God, and how there's going to be a *variety* of people, *all kinds* of people, not everybody the same, a lot of different backgrounds.



I think the second thing that stood out to me in this 21st chapter of John, was the way our Lord gave Peter a second chance. It might come across harsh when Jesus asks Peter three times "Do you love me?", "Do you love me?", "Do you love me?" And finally on that third time, Peter said, "Lord, you know that I love you." But I think the Lord was trying to give Peter a chance to reaffirm his belief--he had denied him three times. And I think that as Jesus asked him that third time, "Do you love me?" I think it brought back that memory when he was by another fireside, it was in the evening, and he denied the Lord that third time. And so this time, he got to reaffirm his belief in Jesus Christ.

And Peter was going to be a real, living *leader* for the Kingdom of God. I think John was a *witness* for the Kingdom of God--they had different kinds of ministry, but each had a ministry. And I think about my own life and the ministry that I've been involved in, and it was *unique* for *me*. Somebody else is going to have *another* ministry, I mean, people that sing in the choir, people that teach a class. Each of us have different ministries.

I think one of the most *profound* statements that I've found in the Gospel of John, is where He confronts these individuals who have come to Him--they've caught this woman in adultery--and they've got a self-righteous attitude, like they've never done anything wrong. And they weren't really *interested* in this woman, anyway. They were trying to trap Jesus. But the *lesson* that I got out of that is, maybe not get too high up on your own horse--like you're above everybody else and you're *so righteous*. And that's a lesson that's stayed with me a long time. I came across that thought years ago, and each time when I read John and I get there, that thought comes back to me.