

Wednesday, July 8, 2020 Bible Study Notes
Cedarville United Presbyterian Church Facebook Live
Fruit of the Spirit Series: Kindness
Text: John 21:1-19

Summer Series: Fruit of the Spirit

- Love – nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ our Lord. What does it mean to love God, love our neighbor, love our enemy, love ourselves?
- Joy – “rejoice always”; “the joy of the Lord is my strength”
- Peace – seek peace and pursue it...we need to dig around for it because it doesn't come naturally
- Patience – how do we become satisfied with what Christ offers so that we do become more patient, loving, joyful people?
- Kindness – kindness of Christ when talking with the woman caught in adultery, and kindness when dealing with our own sin
- Tonight – kindness when restoring Peter; we can all be restored

Where Are We In Scripture?

- The disciples have followed Jesus for three years. Jesus has been crucified, died, and has been resurrected. But now the disciples are waiting to see what is next.
- We find the disciples on the Sea of Tiberias or the Sea of Galilee, which is where Jesus had first met most of them.
- Peter declared that he was going fishing, and the others went with him.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

- Jesus told them how to catch fish, and suddenly they had so many fish they couldn't even haul the net in. When we do things on our own power, even good things, they don't always work out. But when we do what Jesus tells us to, even the exact same thing, it works.
- We can have all sorts of great ministry ideas. But without prayer, without God's consent, without God's commissioning us to do that thing, it doesn't yield much.
- When they hauled in all that fish, they knew it was Jesus standing on that shore.
 - John, the one who wrote this book, said, “It is the Lord!” He was excited!
 - Peter, on the other hand, suffering extreme guilt over denying Christ, jumped into the water out of fear.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

- Jesus meets him in that guilt and restores him.
- Jesus gave him a personal commissioning – feed my sheep
- In Acts, Peter was a dynamic preacher. The man who once said "I do not know him" was standing and testifying to the gospel, and 3,000 people were saved that day. Not because of Peter, but because of the Holy Spirit's work in Peter. He moved from fear to faith.

What Can We Learn?

1. Peter's Fear

- How often do we "jump off the boat" to hide in regret and remorse rather than go toward Jesus in repentance?
- Repentance is changing our mind—changing our mind about our sin and agreeing with God that it's wrong—and then letting God turn us around and put us on that narrow path
- When we get stuck in regret and don't move to repentance, we can get stuck in fear. But as we see, Peter was redeemed. And we can be, too, if we run toward Jesus rather than away from him when we realize the extent of our sin.

2. Try The Other Side

- Rev. Stanley Coates: *Sometimes God puts us in situations where it seems like there is no answer. We have tried everything. We thought we knew what needed to be done. It worked before, so we think we already know how to do it. In the middle of that situation maybe Jesus is saying, "Hey, put the net on the other side and see what happens." Relationships break down because we feel we have to be defensive. Or we want to be proven right. Maybe the net needs to be on the other side. Maybe try...forgiveness...or humility. What happens then?*
- What is Jesus nudging you to do?

3. Jesus Is What We Need

- When we journey with Jesus, the resources we truly need are never far away. It's not the same as getting what we want. But with Jesus, we get what we need.
- Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." In John, he says, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick. I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." Jesus says, "My grace is sufficient for you".
- Whatever we NEED from Jesus...he will provide. Not whatever strikes our fancy, but what we need. Do we need the fruit of the Spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness or self-control? It is available. Do we need assurance, security, hope, encouragement or peace? They are available as well. What about forgiveness, mercy, reassurance, or faith? All of these are available from Jesus.