

What Now?

John 1:3a

Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee.

Introduction

1. God does things in His timing, so when the time was right, “God sent His Son.”
 - a. To come to this World for the purpose of our redemption from sin
 - b. To take our sins away from us
 - c. To bring us to God and to separate us from satan
 - d. To deliver us from condemnation, so we could live under justification, as if we had not sinned
 - e. So we could be free and free indeed
 - f. So we could have life instead of death
2. God sent His Son to be light and life to a world of darkness and death
 - a. We see in John 1:4 that in Christ was Life and the life was the Light of men
 - b. Then in John 1:5, we see that

The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not...

1st. This was not just any light, but “The Light” that shined in darkness

 - i. Jesus is “The Light,” because in Christ is Life, and it is that Life that gives Light to us
 - ii. Notice that the Kjv uses “shineth” which means “continues to shine”
 - 1) Nothing can put out the light of Christ
 - 2) Communism declares that there is no God, but when the wall that symbolized communism fell, we find that Christians were still worshipping in Russia
 - 3) The Christian church in China flourishes in spite of the persecution of the communist government in China
 - 4) Voltaire declared that the Bible would be outdated in 100 years, but today the Bible is still the bestselling book in the world. Furthermore, it is not outdated, but very valid for our society today.

5) Nothing will ever put out the light, for Christ is that Light

2nd. “The darkness comprehended it not,”

i. Let us look at the meaning of this phrase

1) To lay hold of

2) To lay hold of so as to make one's own,

3) To seize upon or take possession of

4) The evil ones cannot control the light

5) To understand, or perceive, or learn, or comprehend

ii. The darkness of this world will never take possession of the Light which shines from Christ who sits on the throne of God

iii. Darkness will never understand Christ, so we have to have darkness removed, and allow the Light of God's love, revelation, understanding enter into our hearts and minds for us to understand what Christ has done for us

iv. Notice verses 5 in these different versions

1) Kjv...And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

2) Niv...The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

3) Nlt...The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

4) Amp...

The Light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness did not understand it *or* overpower it *or* appropriate it *or* absorb it [and is unreceptive to it].

Note: It is time to rejoice!!!

3. Christ entered this world headed for the Cross

a. Luke 2:49 shows us that Jesus at age 12 knew why He was in this world, for He said “Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?”

Note these versions

i. Niv...Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?”

ii. Nlt...“Didn’t you know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

iii. Amp...Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”

Note: Just a side thought

i. If Jesus our Savior had to be about the Father’s business, shouldn’t we have to be busy doing the Lord’s business

ii. If Jesus at age 12 felt the need to be in His Father’s house, shouldn’t we as the Children of God feel the need to be in our Father’s house discussing the things of God

b. John 3 shows us that Jesus knew His purpose on earth when He began His ministry

14) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

c. So we saw His ultimate sacrifice for you and I on the Cross, so we could be free from sin

4. After the Cross was His Resurrection

a. If there is no Resurrection, then there is no life

b. Jesus came to destroy the works of satan, so He had to come forth from the grave, thus crushing the head of satan

c. Jesus came to destroy death, so He rose from the dead bring life to all who would accept Him

d. 1 Corinthians 15:12-14 show us the importance of Jesus’ resurrection

12) Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13) But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14) And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

e. Again, let us look at 1 Corinthians 15:16-

16) For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17) And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18) Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19) If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20) But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Note: In the fullness of time God sent His Son to be a Light in a world of darkness, to go to the

Cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to be our Scapegoat, and to conquer death and defeat satan by rising again on the 3rd day with the keys of death and hell so we can experience new life here and enjoy the life with Christ in eternity.

Note: The followers of Jesus were not emotionally and mentally prepared for what they were now having to deal with. What were they to do?

I. What now

A. Events leading up to this point

1. So, here they are,
 - a. They have walked with Jesus for 3 years, and now, He was no longer with them
 - b. He taught them, directed them, led them, showed them, told them, and now what were they to do
 - c. He had been tried, crucified, buried, and now raised from the dead, but what were they to do
2. We need to understand that from the time they had accepted the call to follow Christ and be fishers of men,
 - a. They had never been without a leader
 - b. They had never been without an instructor
 - c. Jesus had always for the last three years told them what to do and when to do it
 - d. But now, He was here, then He was gone, what were they to do?

B. Jesus had appeared to them

1. On the day of His resurrection
 - a. The Angels told the women to tell Jesus' followers to go Galilee, and He would come to them there
 - b. Then Jesus appeared to the Mary Magdalene
 - c. In Matthew 28, we read where Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, and Jesus told them to tell His disciples to go before Him into Galilee
 - d. When the ladies told the Apostles what they had seen and heard, they did not believe them

i. Luke 24:11...their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

ii. Mark 16:11..

When they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

e. John 20 and Luke 24 records Peter and John running to the tomb to see for themselves that the tomb was empty, and Luke 24:12 records Peter's thought as he left the tomb

...Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

f. Then in Mark 16 and Luke 24, we find that Jesus appeared to two of them as they travelled to Emmaus, but let us notice some thoughts that they had as they traveled

i. v14...They talked together of all these things which had happened.

ii. v15...While they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

iii. v16...Their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

Note: In my opinion they were so wrapped up in their own thoughts, disappointments, sadness, and perplexity over the news the women had shared that they were not able to see Jesus

i. Is it possible for us to get so wrapped up in ourselves, that we cannot see what Jesus wants to do in us, through us and around us

ii. Can we become so depressed, oppressed, sad, worried, that we are not able to recognize the delivering presence of Christ when He comes on the scene

iii. Can we become so worried over the battle of quitting a habit or overcoming an illness, or rising above relationship problems that we are not able to move in faith and trust Jesus to help us one day at a time to be what He has created us to be

iv. Do you think it is possible that we try to hard within ourselves, trust to much in what we can do, or should do, that we fail to simply with childlike faith trust Jesus to do the work that He so much desires to do in us

iv. Notice what Jesus said to these two men in v17

What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?

v. In verses 18-24, they told Jesus all about their experiences and feelings

1) They told Him what had happen to Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

- 2) Then they rehearsed how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.
 - 3) In v21, we see their innermost thoughts and disappointments
But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel:
 - 4) They also said in v21,
beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.
 - 5) To top it off, in v22-24, they tell how
 - a) Certain women of our company went early to the sepulcher and came back astonishing us with the news that
 - i) They could not find His body
 - ii. They had a vision of angels who said that He was alive
 - b) To top it off, others of our group went to the sepulchre and found it even so as the women had said: but Him they saw not.
 - vi. In verses 25-27, Jesus shares with them Scriptures beginning with Moses and going through the prophets to show them that these things were supposed to happen so all mankind could be saved
 - vii. In verse 30 Jesus blessed the meal, and in v31, their eyes were opened and they knew Him
 - viii. In verses 33-34, they left the same hour and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven gathered together with others, discussing that The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.
2. That same evening while they are discussing these events Jesus appears to them
 - a. They are frightened
 - b. Some are still doubting thinking that it is too good to be true.
 - c. He eats a piece of fish, and shows them his hands and feet, then teaches them
 3. Other occasions where Jesus appeared to His followers
 - a. He is with them forty days before He ascends to His father
 - b. During this forty days, Jesus appears

- i. To Mary Magdalene
- ii. To Peter
- iii. To the two men on the road to Emmaus
- iv. To all of them in the closed room the evening of His resurrection
- v. Eight days later in Galilee He appears to all of them even Thomas
- vi. Paul records the following 1 Corinthians 15:5-8

5) And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6) After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7) After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8) And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

Note: He appeared to me on a playground in Hanford, California, and in many other ways has Jesus manifested Himself to me.

Has He revealed Himself to You? Then He has appeared to you as well.

Note: With all these events taking place, the Apostles were left in a quandary as to what they should do, so we come to our text where Jesus appears to them the third time.

II. Events of the third time Jesus reveals Himself

A. Peter says "I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee"

1. Matthew Henry said that their agreement to go a fishing showed that they did not know what to do with themselves
 - a. Many who come to Christ do not know what to do with themselves
 - b. There comes a time we have to decide whether or not we are going to follow Christ
2. Not knowing what to do, they return to the fishing boats they had left behind
3. They needed to do something, so they go back to their boats that represent their old life
4. Everything they thought would happened had not happened, so what were they to do, so they went fishing

Note: Disappoints will come, but we cannot go back to what we used to be. So many times our disappoints happen because we are looking for one thing, when God is moving us in another direction. We have to learn that God is in control, so what we do is follow Him.

B. Events of their Fishing Trip

1. They fish all night and catch nothing
2. Jesus appears on the shore in v4, and in v5, He calls out to them...
Children, have ye any meat?
3. They respond “No,” so Jesus tells them to

Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

4. John recognizes Jesus, and he says, “It is the Lord.”
 - a. Sometimes we need someone to point out to us that “It is the Lord” who is at work in our lives
 - b. It is the Lord who has come to where we are doing our own thing because of an emptiness which is in us because of our disappointments
 - c. It is the Lord who is working on us before He can work on our family
 - d. It is the Lord who is calling us to Salvation from a life of sin
 - e. It is the Lord, whom we have rejected, who is watching over us protecting us when we do not deserve His care
 - f. It is the Lord who is here today to work a miraculous work in your life this morning, if you will respond to Him
5. Peter does not wait on the others, but prepares himself to meet the Lord, leaps into the water, and makes his way to the shore where His Lord is waiting
6. Jesus has the fire set, fish on the fire, and calls for more fish, then says, Come and dine.
 - a. Jesus has a table spread Where the saints of God are fed,
 - b. Jesus invites His chosen people, “Come and dine”;

Note: You are invited to day to feast at Jesus’ table of goodness and blessing and miracles.

- c. Jesus will feed you and supply your ever need
- d. You will find that it is sweet to sup with Jesus all the time
- e. Chorus of the song “Come and Dine.”

“Come and dine,” the Master calleth, “Come and dine”;
 You may feast at Jesus’ table all the time;
 He Who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine,
 To the hungry calleth now, “Come and dine.”

III. Decision Time

A. A decision is made when they come to land where Jesus is

1. Notice what the song writer says in “Come and Dine”

The disciples came to land,
 Thus obeying Christ’s command,
 For the Master called unto them, “Come and dine”;
 There they found their heart’s desire,
 Bread and fish upon the fire;
 Thus He satisfies the hungry every time.

2. We make a decision to follow Christ when He calls us

- a. This decision is simply obeying Christ call to come out of Sin
- b. This decision is obeying Christ call to come to His table to enjoy the rich blessings He has for us
- c. This decision is a decision that fills the emptiness in our heart which we have been trying to fill with the things of this life and this world
- d. This is a decision to receive peace and joy in Christ as His children
- e. This is a decision to go to heaven instead of hell
- f. So, we decide to follow Christ

B. Let us look at another Decision that must be made

1. There comes a day when God calls us to deeper places in Him
2. There comes a time when God does us as He did His disciples, appears to us to call us into a deeper commitment and involvement with the Lord
3. There comes a time when we must leave the table of milk and move to dine on the meat of God’s Word as God calls us from having to be constantly taught to becoming teachers

C. Let us examine Peter’s call in John 21:15-17

1. The call

- a. v15...Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.
- b. v16...Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.
- c. v17...He saith unto him the third time,

Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

2. Three times because Peter had denied him three times

3. What is Jesus referring to

- a. Perhaps Jesus waves toward the fishing vessels, Jesus says Simon...
 - i. Do you love me more than you love your fishing boats,
 - ii. Do you love me more than you love your occupation,
 - iii. Do you love me more than you love your old life
- b. Perhaps Jesus waves toward the other disciples,
 - i. Because Peter had said in Matthew 26:33...
Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.
 - ii. Yet Peter denied Christ Three times
 - iii. Peter, do you truly love me more than all these others do
 - iv. Peter will you follow me when all others have left
 - v. Peter will you be obedient when everyone else has quit

4. Let us look at Peter's response

- a. v15... Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

b. v16... Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee

He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

c. v17... Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

5. Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me?

- a. The grief could have come from the fact that the Lord asked him three times, and just did not accept his first two responses
- b. Being asked three times caused Peter to look into himself, and declare that He loved Jesus
- c. Being asked the third time caused Peter to grieve
 - i. He was reminded of the three times he had denied Christ
 - ii. He was reminded of his bragging comment that even though others failed, he would never fail
 - iii. He was reminded that Jesus had rebuked him on one occasion saying “satan get behind me,”
 - iv. He was reminded that his way was not Jesus’ way
 - v. He came face to face with a decision that had to be made, and that decision involved the question “Peter lovest thou me more than these.”

6. Matthew Henry’s comments

- a. Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these
 - i. This refers to his humanity
 - ii. This reminds Peter where he came from
 - iii. This refers to his instability
- b. Lovest thou me
 - i. When we fail God our love for God is questioned

- ii. When we refuse to relinquish everything to Christ, then our love is questioned
- iii. How can you love me Peter when you are ashamed of me
- iv. How can you love me when you are afraid to suffer with me
- v. Here are some questions
 - 1) Do we love Him or fear Him
 - 2) Do we honor Him or love Him
 - 3) Do we admire Christ, or do we love Him
 - 4) Do you love Christ above everything
 - 5) We are not being asked
 - a) If we have wept over our failure, but do we love Him
 - b) If we have repented, but do we love Him

Note: Before Christ would give Peter charge over His lambs and sheep, He wanted to know if Peter loved Him

- i. It needs to be expressed by our commitment to excellence that we love Him before we take responsibility to lead and teach the sheep and lambs of the Lord
- ii. Our love for Him will dictate that we are willing as the Spirit guides our lives to give up the things that interfere with our growth in Christ
- iii. Our love for Him dictates that if we teach to others that God will give them the ability to rise above our situation, addiction in their lives, then we should be practicing it

7. Lord you know all things, You know that I love You

Conclusion

1. What are we going to do?
2. We have found Christ, now what are we going to do?
3. Peter submitted to God's Call declaring His love for Christ knowing that he would one day be crucified, but yet he chose, out of love, to follow Christ
4. What is your declaration...Do you Love Him?

