



Sunday, September 6, 2009:

Epilogue Part 2: Two Disciples, One Calling

Scripture: John 21:18-25

Speaker: Scott Masson

Sermon Notes:

1. Unlike other biographies, the gospels center on Jesus' death. The death of our Lord is our life. See John 1:29, 36; 3: 14-16; 6: 51-58; 10:15; 11: 50-52; 12: 24; 15:13
2. Most people live a life of quiet desperation, seeking to fill empty meaning in their lives. By contrast, Jesus' life was full of light and purpose; He was intolerant and offensive, and yet His life is attractive to the average person.
3. Unlike the Buddha, Jesus accepted and demanded worship.
4. Jesus *declares* the path of life, and He *is* the path to life.
5. Human effort does not reveal the identity of Jesus to His followers, but it is the Father in heaven. Matthew 16:17.
6. Peter proves to be a failure throughout John's gospel.
7. Dorothy Sayers suggested there are three humiliations of Jesus: the incarnation, the cross, and His followers.
8. When speaking to others about Christ, we need to ensure the offense taken is the gospel's offense, not our own manner and personality.
9. The path of discipleship is to follow, as the Lord sovereignly leads us.
10. Jesus sticks by us even when, like Peter, we are unfaithful and offensive to Him.
11. Jesus continues to suffer when we suffer. Likewise Jesus is humiliated in the humiliation of His followers, His Church.
12. John relates the exchange in John 21:20-22 to discourage a natural tendency among Christians: after hearing what Jesus commanded, Peter 1) turned away from Jesus; then 2) he turned to another disciple and compared himself to

him; finally 3) Peter suggests he has received an unfair calling in suffering.

13. Peter is looking to something other than Christ for signs of love.
14. We need to avoid our tendency to compare the specifics of our calling with other believers. When we stand before God we'll be accountable for ourselves, not for others.
15. Our education, gender, health, wealth and abilities are irrelevant to our individual calling to *follow Jesus*.
16. Colossians 3:1-4 says Christ's life is in us. cf. Galatians 2:20.
17. We are called to be members of one body in Christ, but we are to fix our eyes on Jesus, not on one another.

Application Questions:

1. Why is the death of Jesus the central theme of the gospels?
2. How did Peter gain the insight to recognize Jesus' true identity when Jesus asked in Matthew 16:13-18 ?
3. Are you faithful to your brothers and sisters in Christ, even when they are embarrassing or offensive?
4. Do you compare yourself and your calling to others and their callings? Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Where should we look instead?
5. When following Jesus isn't what you hoped for, how can we remember that our life is in Jesus not in earthly circumstances? Do you desire marriage? Are you poor? Are you proud of your wealth? Do you ever wonder if God has abandoned you?