

Remnant Life Church
April 3, 2016
Grace Abounding – Part 6
Dealing with the Guilt...For Good
John 21:13-25

- **READ – John 21:13-25**
- The setting is the Sea of Galilee (John 21)
- Seven of the disciples are together and they decided to go fishing (21:3)
 - They went back to what they knew
 - We are not told why but I believe comfort in the familiar
 - Can be good also can be bad
- Jesus stands on the shore and calls out to them (21:4-6)
 - They do not recognize Him (21:4)
 - The danger of the things of the past is that they often do not allow us to see what God has done or is doing in our lives
 - Often how many people don't continue to move forward after dealing with an issue because they go back to the place they were delivered from
 - The result of this is always the same thing – guilt
- Guilt
 - Guilt is generated by one of two actions
 - + Doing something that we should not have
 - + Not doing something that we should have done
 - Guilt only comes to those who know right from wrong
 - Babies and little children live guilt-free lives (until they are taught and learn right from wrong)
 - Morally bankrupt (call them evil) and delusional prideful people do not bother themselves with guilt
 - The remorse comes from a conscience that wants to do the right thing
- Satan grabs a hold of it and turns into a weapon to use against us
 - It will do one of two things
 - + Drive us away from God in defiance
 - + Or drive us toward Him in repentance
- Guilt ran rampant throughout the Bible
 1. It was guilt that made Adam and Eve hide from God after they had eaten from the fruit (Gen 3:10)
 2. It was dealing with great guilt over his affair with Bathsheba that David said, *"When I kept silent, my bones wasted away from my groaning all day long."* (Psa 32:3)
 3. Because of guilt Isaiah cries out, *"Woe to me I am a man of unclean lips!"* (Isa 6:5)
 4. Guilt caused the Pharisees and other men to drop the stones they were going to use to kill the adulteress woman (John 8:10-12)
 5. Because of guilt Judas hung himself after giving up Jesus to be arrested (Matt 27:5)
 6. It was guilt that had Peter – perhaps for the very first time – sitting quietly by the fire that morning not saying a word. (John 21)

- We have been talking for the last couple of months about God's abounding grace and forgiveness
- God has forgiven us but many cannot forgive themselves or are unwilling to simply accept the truth
- Guilt will often motivate people to look for ways to free themselves of it...
- Gil Hodges
 - One of the most consistent and best players of the 1950s primarily with the Brooklyn/LA Dodgers; ended with the Mets
 - 20 year career – 370 HRs (2 lost years of play for military service)
 - Managed the Washington Senators from 1963-1967
 - Miracle Mets of 1969
 - Manager of the Senators became aware of 3 players who had broken curfew
 - Called the team together
 - Know who you are but don't want to embarrass you in front of the entire team; fined \$100 each
 - Cigar box on my desk – place your fine in there by 3:00
 - Came back later there was \$700 in the box
- Guilt is about the conscience and the Bible talks often about it
 - Good (I Tim 1:5)
 - Clear (I Tim 3:9)
 - Weak (I Cor 8:12)
 - Seared (I Tim 4:2)
 - Corrupted (Titus 1:15)
 - Evil (Heb 10:22)
- Peter was dealing with a heavy, guilty conscience!
- He had done exactly what he said he would not do only a few days before – he deserted Jesus!
- So Jesus started the conversation with Him
 - You can run but you can't hide
 - That was true then and its true still today
- Three very important things that take place in this encounter between Jesus and Peter
 1. Jesus addresses Simon in a different way
 - **Read vs 15-17**
 - Jesus calls Peter by his old name; the name of his old nature
 - But Peter had just done something that was a part of his old nature
 2. Jesus did this in front of the other disciples instead of taking him aside privately – why?
 - Peter had denied Jesus very publically
 - Jesus called him on it and restored him – publically
 - It was important not only for Peter to know that he had been forgiven but the other disciples needed to know that too
 3. Jesus repeated the same question to Peter 3 times – why?
 - That is the same number of times that Peter denied Jesus
 - But Jesus and Peter are not together in their conversation
 - + In verse 15 – Jesus uses the Greek word for love Apapeo (the love of God)
 - + Peter responds with the Greek word Phileo (Friend)
 - + In verse 16 it is repeated again; God's love and friend

+ Finally the third time in verse 17 Jesus asks are you really my friend (Phileo) and Simon is grieved

+ He realizes the depth of what he had done; not acting like the friend he said he was at all

- There are a lot of Peter's in the church today
 - People say all kinds of things but they do something else
 - Peter said he would stick by Jesus even to death – then he fled
 - He said I love you – but he denied Jesus
- BUT – the forgiveness and love of Jesus is complete and total

- Peter went on to play a lead role in the early church (**Acts 1-6**)
- He leads the other disciples in the replacement of Judas with Mathias
- He preached to the crowd on the Day of Pentecost and 3000 accepted Jesus
- Performed miracles and appeared with John before the Sanhedrin
- Jesus wanted to know more than He was asking
 - Talking with a friend and asking “How are you doing?”
 - Ask 3 times desiring the answers to be more intimate
 - Jesus was doing that with Peter

- Do you love me more than these? (**21:15**)
 - More than those gathered here?
 - More than fishing?
 - More than your comfort zone?
- Jesus was going to require a lot from Peter – just as He does of us today!
- He's also asking those same questions of us today –
 - Do we love Him? Then we need to serve Him!
 - Feed my lambs; take care of my young ones
 - Feed my sheep; minister to one another in love
- Love make sacrifice a privilege
 - Stand in line for tickets
 - Get up in the middle of the night to help someone
 - Give up yourself to live for God in every way