

How Can I Please God? Live for Him!

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – March 22, 2009

John 21:1-18

1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. 15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, **do you truly love me more than these?**" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "**Feed my lambs.**" 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, **do you truly love me?**" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "**Take care of my sheep.**" 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, **do you love me?**" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "**Feed my sheep.**"

Pleasing God requires...

1. **LOVING JESUS!**

- Notice that Jesus didn't say, "Do you truly love **my sheep?**"
- He said, "Do you truly love **me?**"
- Is it a coincidence that Jesus asks Peter 3 times "Do you love me?"... when Peter earlier had denied 3 times even knowing Christ?

Pleasing God requires...

2. **RESPONDING WITH THE SAMENESS OF CHRIST!**

Philippians 2:1-8

1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, **having the same love,** being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 **Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:** 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but **made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,** being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself** and became **obedient to death**-even death on a cross!

Sameness of Christ Jesus:

- Love "have the same love"
- Attitude "Your attitude should be the same"
- Selflessness "made himself nothing"
- Servanthood "taking the very nature of a servant"
- Humility "he humbled himself"
- Obedience "became obedient to death"

Pleasing God requires...

3. **RESPONDING WITH A LIFE LIVED FOR HIM!**

"Do you truly love me?" "Feed My Sheep."

Luke 6:46

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Lord: to surrender one's power and authority to another

Ephesians 2:10

We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

17 If anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation;** the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation:** 19 ... And **[God] has committed to us the message of reconciliation.** 20 **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us...**

DO YOU DESIRE TO PLEASE GOD? LIVE FOR HIM... HE DIED FOR YOU!