

Sunday, May 5, 2019

John 21:1-19

Theme: "TO BE CONTINUED..."

Many of us develop back-up plans or a Plan B...

Car insurance...

Home owners' insurance...

Purchase warranties on appliances...

Investment plans...

Retirement plans...

*Or perhaps a pastor who cannot pay the college tuition for her or his children...

*He or she may abandon the ministry for a business plan, which is the back-up plan or a Plan B...

*While this may not be wrong, the pastor needs to make sure that the plan is part of God's Plan A...

*God's will must be at the center of our plans...

*Some people may find that Jesus does not make them rich or take away their troubles...

*They may think that God does not give them constant happiness...

*So, they may decide to turn away from God and return to the life they once had before...

*This is not God's way; this is a way outside of Christ, who is The Way, the Truth, and the Life...

The seven disciples in this story returned home to a familiar territory and a familiar task - fishing...

Their walk with Jesus was apparently over...

They thought that the adventure with Jesus was over, and so they turned to their plan B...

*But Jesus was not through with them yet...

*He came to have breakfast with them by the sea to tell them about His Plan...

*Friends, you may think that it is over, but it is not over until the Lord says it is over...

*The Lord may just use your back-up plan as a way to initiate His ultimate Plan for your life...

We can see this truth through a miraculous catch of fish in this text...

Jesus confirmed His ongoing call on the disciples' lives through this miracle...

We keep our back-up plans or a plan B just in case things do not work out as we hope..

But when we follow Jesus, we should not keep a back-up plan or a Plan B that is different from God's overall Plan...

We must follow God without looking back because the adventure is ahead.

Churches often have mission statements that spell out their convictions, vision, and purpose...

*Many of them pursue their calling with the right motivation...

*For others there is little difference....

*Power, fame, money, and position continue to be a leading motivation for service...

*I wonder what would Jesus have to say about that...

Jesus demonstrated His love for us, His "lambs" and "sheep," by laying down His life for us...

When we are told to feed His sheep, we are being entrusted with His most valued possession...

Jesus identifies the proper motivation for Christian ministry...

He asks the one great question that must be reflected upon and answered by each person in ministry...

The question is: "Do you love Me..."

As with Peter's response, our answer to this question cannot be superficial.

Jesus already knows our hearts...

It is an important question because the answer qualifies us for or disqualifies us from ministry...

True and effective ministry to God's people must flow out of our love for Christ...

Our love for Jesus must be reflected in our love for His sheep...

This love of Jesus is our calling...

Therefore, this love is "To Be Continued..."

Continue the love of feeding...

Continue the love of caring...

Continue the love of being...

Continue the love of shepherding...

The love of Christ must be continue...

Transition to the Lord's Table...

Amen!