



John 21:15-19 New Revised Standard Version

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Notes _____



A couple of weeks ago, I found myself in the midst of a construction zone which created a backup in traffic. It was the kind of scenario in which one lane was closed and there was need of a “pilot car” to guide traffic through the zone. When it came my turn to be lead through,

I took notice of the truck’s sign which read “Pilot Car Follow Me.”

Jesus is certainly no “pilot car” in a construction zone, but he does offer the same invitation: “Follow me.” That was important in his early interactions with those individuals who became disciples and continued to be so even after the Resurrection. In spite of Peter’s denial, and the other disciples having fled, Jesus was willing to reinstate them to ongoing service as followers. This renewed calling took place following an evening of unproductive fishing and Jesus’ insistence that they try again.

After sharing breakfast on the beach, Jesus conversed one on one with Simon Peter. While Jesus had every reason to rebuke Peter and the other disciples, this was no such moment. He questioned the level of his love toward Jesus and whether that love was willing to serve others through action. In a threefold manner of questioning, Jesus learned from the disciple that yes he loved him and was willing to follow Jesus going forward.

Jesus’ invitation to “follow me” has continued down through the years and has been embraced by countless individuals. These individuals have proven through life and even death their fidelity to Jesus and passion for making God’s love known in the world. While it may not require martyrdom of us, Jesus continues to call to each of us with the invitation to follow him and learn from him the Kingdom life.

Thoughts to Consider

1. Jesus invites each of us to begin again.
2. Jesus never said, “Lead me” or “Get in my way.”
3. Jesus’ calling is still all-encompassing today.

Prayer Pebble: Jesus, I hear you calling. Grant me the courage to follow you.