

## Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

August 11, 2019

### *You Are What You Love*

#### How to Be Yourself

John 21:9-19

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### KEY VERSES

<sup>15</sup> When 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." <sup>16</sup> A 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." <sup>17</sup> He 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. <sup>18</sup> Very 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." <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me." **John 21:15-19**

#### DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

This week we explore the myth "*I am nothing more than my worst moment.*" This sermon series has helped us better understand why it is so difficult for us to claim our identity as beloved sons and daughters of Christ. Often when we hear "*Who am I?*" we misinterpret it as "*Am I enough?*" In our endless striving to be more, do more, and please others we constantly find ourselves failing to meet expectations. This ultimately leads us to define ourselves by our worst failures or mistakes. ***What are some major mistakes or failures on which you have based your identity? Why do you think it is so hard for us to claim our identity in Christ?***

Thankfully, Peter's life was not defined by his worst moment, in which He denied Christ three times. In this week's text, Jesus appears to his disciples a few weeks after he was raised from the dead, and asks Peter the simple question, "*Do you love me?*" This question could be at first glance seen as a test for Peter, before Jesus fulfills his promise to build the church upon him. *Agape*, or self-sacrificial love, is the type of love Jesus means when he asks Peter this question. Peter's response tells us that he thinks Jesus is referring to *Philia*, or the love between friends. What Peter has to offer, though not yet *Agape* love, is enough for Jesus and he asks Peter to follow him. ***How would you have answered Jesus' question? Can you honestly say to Jesus, "I can't love you as you love me, but I can try" and accept that he still wants you to follow him?***

Our endless striving will eventually lead us to the end of ourselves. The good news in this is that Jesus is there to meet us and re-arrange the pieces of our lives in the right order, just as he did for Peter. ***Have you had the experience of coming to the end of yourself, only to be put back together by the grace of God? Knowing that there is no auto-pilot for love and it can easily get disordered, how are you encouraged to pay more constant attention to what and whom you love?***

***Heavenly Father, thank you for the miracle of your grace that enables us to share in the love you have for your son, Jesus Christ. Help us to boldly claim our identity as you beloved sons and daughters, trusting and thank that your love can never be taken away from us. We lift the broken pieces of our lives to you, Lord, trusting that what we do have, you want to use it for your glory. Amen.***