

“Do You Love Me” Part 2 John 21 The Epilogue John 21:11-17

Peter’s going to handle his failure God’s way by using His grace recovery technique which will restore him to experiential fellowship with his Savior and all this is sponsored by and provided by way of his Savior’s initiation in the form of a three question dialogue.

We’ll see that Peter has learned the vital lesson regarding the importance of relying on the power of divine solutions and rejecting the futility of human solutions.

Each of us is culpable for our own sinfulness under God’s immutable law of free-will responsibility.

And because He loves us so much and wants only the very best for us experientially, God in His matchless grace initiates three stages of divine discipline upon a carnal believer who refuses to acknowledge the fact that he’s gone off track in the Christian way of life;

1. Warning, 2. Intensive and 3. Dying discipline.

When a believer in Jesus Christ fails to or refuses to accept and admit his carnality, the Lord God must get his attention and that often includes hurting before he will receive his experiential restoration; consider King David.

Recovery God’s way is His solution for both restoring us to abiding fellowship with His Son and also for defeating all fear in our lives.

Just as faith alone in Jesus Christ alone for salvation is accomplished while we were in the state of spiritual death, post-salvation recovery of the filling of the Holy Spirit is accomplished while we are in the state of carnality and in each case, God does all the work and that’s His grace in action!

Divine discipline makes us keenly aware of the futility of human solutions.

The faithfulness of God always forgives and cleanses a believer who names his sins to the Father and the Father always extends the same grace to all without exception, even when we name a sin for the one thousandth time, He never tires of forgiving us because those sins were judged on His Son’s Cross!

We may well be physically and spiritually exhausted from our bouts with carnality due to their repercussions leading to self-induced misery and their certain reciprocity BUT GOD will NEVER waiver in His loving grace response!

And if this recovery system somehow bothers you because you think that simply acknowledging your failure before God is just not enough and there should be some type of penance included, you don’t understand the grace of God and His prerogative to express it as He sees fit!

In eternity past, God considered every problem that would occur in human history and He provided a solution for everyone.

God never asks for an apology or any regrets either, He says only: ‘Name or acknowledge your sins before Me!’

We can do nothing about our past failures but through God’s recovery plan, we can do something about our future spiritual life.

Peter, like Paul after him will, is about to become uniquely aware of this amazing grace forgiveness from the Almighty Hand of the Living, Loving God of all creation!

We may feel sorry for our sins but our feelings carry no weight with God; emotion is never the standard for the spiritual life.

Emotion may be a grateful response to God’s magnificent provision and His care for us but emotion has no value in God’s forgiveness.

Only what God thinks about our sins is important; not how we feel about them and while it’s

certainly true that He despises our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive them based on the work of His precious Son.

So, just what do the disciples deserve for breakfast from the Lord Jesus, lumps of coal like some of us may deserve for Christmas?

The disciples are coming to the table for something they haven't worked for or earned but it's something they certainly need; food.

This time our Lord passes out the bread without breaking it first.

The Lord Jesus graciously picked up the tab.

One thing the Lord didn't do at the breakfast and that's hand-feed the disciples!