**John XVI Epilogue Feed My Sheep**

**John 17: The Hour Has Come.**

John 17:1 Father the hour has come.

What hour?

The hour for Jesus to be glorified—to be lifted up. This has been a constant theme in John.

The “hour” of Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension

The hour of his redemption of humanity.

The greatest hour in all of human history.

The consummation of the plan which had been in place since the time of Abraham.

The hour when all prophecy will be fulfilled

When the Old Covenant will not be ended but completed

When the New Covenant will be established

The lamb, slain from the creation of the world Rev 13:8 is now ready to be slain.

Yes, the hour, truly has come.

**John 18-19 John’s Passion Story**

Jesus is totally in control. He knows exactly what is happening.

John 18:4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

John 18:32 This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

Even in the very end, He gives up his spirit. Jesus even chooses the moment of his death. 19:30 “It is finished.”

Jesus has glorified the Father and the Father has glorified his son.

**John Ch 20 Resurrection Appearances**

Mary Magdalene, Peter, John

The disciples (- Thomas)

The disciples, including Thomas

John 20:19-23 Jesus appears to the 11

John 20:21-22 Jesus breathed on them. He could not wait for Pentecost. He sent them out to do the work he had prepared them for.

As Jesus sent them, so he sends any of us who read this gospel and believe in Jesus. (but we will see a bump in this sending in Ch. 21)

John 20:24-29 Some have accused the early church of being gullible or too easily convinced of the resurrection, but note how skeptical Thomas was!

John 20:26-29 The doors were locked. Jesus appears. Is he a ghost? Definitely not. He touched his side (and in ch. 21 this “ghost” eats fish) What will our resurrected body be like?

vs 28 My Lord and my God! Thomas finally believes. John begins and ends his gospel with a statement that Jesus is God.

To you, is Jesus Lord and God? That is what he is.

Jesus says to him (really to us!) Blessed are those who have not seen my glorification and still believe.

Folks, Jesus was raised from the dead. Besides his death, this is the central fact of Christianity. 1 Cor 15:17-19 If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is futile and you are still in your sins… If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But as Paul said, 1 Cor 15:3-8 Many eye-witnesses.

If Christ has been raised, then almost every question is answered.

Jesus is Lord. Jesus is God!

John’s summary:

“These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of God and that, by believing, you will have life in his name.

…that you may come to believe *pisteuete*

… and by believing present subjunctive and that by continuing to believe.

Have you come to believe and do you continue to believe through the signs done by Jesus in turning water to wine, healing the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda, feeding the 5000, walking on water, healing the man born blind, raising Lazarus from the dead and “many other signs not recorded in this book”, come to believe in Jesus and do you continue to believe?

v. 31 Then you will have life to the full now and eternal life in his name.

And to God be the glory.

**Ch 21 Epilogue Feed My sheep**

An eighth miraculous sign. This section appears to have been appended to the book, which has a very natural end with 20:31

John: Oh, by the way, one more thing!

Purpose of the epilogue: An eighth sign, but also to explain the restoration of Peter and to counter the belief that John would not die until Christ returns.

For us: Peter is coming home!

John 21:1-14

Imagine the scene: Seven disciples: Peter, Doubting Thomas (twin) Philip and Andrew, the sons of Zebedee, Nathanael (John 1:45-49) and two others have gone back to Galilee and were hanging out together.

Have they abandoned Jesus? No, but they do not appear to be about the mission. They do not have a direction. They are leaderless. Peter discredited.

Peter, like Blaine, says “Let’s go fishing.” Then Alan, Louie and Mike say “We’re coming along.” It is a guy thing.

On the Sea of Galilee (Tiberius) net fishing is mostly at night, as this is when the fish come to the surface.

v. 3 These guys are not very successful fishermen!

Here is the scene:

They are discouraged for many reasons. They have lost their vision to do great things for God. They are kind of depressed. Their ministry is going nowhere. Nothing is working. Life has lost its zip.

Honestly, with the ongoing pandemic, I can relate! Campus ministry is impossible. Teens are not doing a lot now—in their caves. Some people are on the fringe—not fully connected.

But then they hear a mysterious voice: Blaine: Have you caught anything?

Dim light, distance, but voices carry really well in the early morning. No! Who is asking?

Cast your nets on the right side….

John makes the connection to Luke 5:1-11 Jesus tells Peter to put out into deep water.

Finally, John (the beloved disciple) recognizes Jesus.

Peter, as typical, jumps out of the boat. It’s Him! It’s Him!!

The pandemic is ending!!! We are going to be able to get back up on campus!! Teens will come out of their caves!!! Disciples on the fringe will be pulled back in!!!! Strays will start coming back. New studies will get started!!!!!

It is time to throw the net out one more time. Trust me in this!!!!!

We’re putting on a singles retreat and a campus retreat in June

We are coming home! And we are going to put on a Coming Home banquet in April.

When Jesus shows up, a lot becomes possible.

On shore, Jesus has already (miraculously?) begun cooking fish (fresh, not dried) and bread like John 6.

Jesus does not need the apostles to get fish! But he will help us to catch fish.

v. 11 153 fish to be exact. Details to show reader this is an eye-witness account.

John 21:12 Jesus: Come! Let’s have breakfast.

We’re home. Nothing says home like a meal eaten together.

For the campers out there, anything cooked over an open fire…

What an amazing breakfast this must have been. Imagine being there. That fish tasted SOOOOO good. And the bread…. Jesus is very human here.

What if this had not happened! What if Jesus had not restored their vision.

What about us?

21:15-17 Jesus restores Peter to the preeminent place among the believers.

Is there a great importance in the two uses of the word love? *phileo vs agape* Probably not because 1. John uses the two interchangeably and 2. They are speaking in Aramaic, which, like English, has one word for both concepts.

Three challenges “do you love me?” Why? Probably because of three denials.

Peter: Do you love me more than these (as you claimed on the night I was betrayed)?

Jesus: Feed my sheep. Tend to my lambs. Peter to be a shepherd.

What is Jesus doing here? He is welcoming Peter home. Peter messed up. Peter messed up really badly!!! I do not know the man! He had lost all right to be considered a follower of Jesus, never mind its principal leader or the one who loved more than all the others!

Some of us have messed up really badly. What does Jesus say to us? Feed my lambs. Get back into the battle to save souls and to keep saved souls saved.

So, what is required of those of us who have messed up? Do you love me?

Do you believe in Jesus? Do you love Jesus?

Welcome home, Peter!

That is the ticket. Belief in Jesus and love of Jesus.

Jesus to us: Feed my sheep. Take care of my sheep. You love me? Great, then love my sheep. Watch out for my sheep.

Jesus is placing Peter in the preeminent position in the church, as we see in Acts 2, but he is giving instruction to us. He wants us to take care of the family.

He wants us to provide a home for one another.

John 21:18-25 Jesus: You will die a martyr. Note: this was almost certainly written after Peter died (v. 19)

v. 21 Peter: What about John. Will he, also, be martyred?

v. 22 Jesus: That is my business. Just follow me and feed my sheep.

v. 23-24 Because of this a false rumor spread in the church. But I was there, and that is not how it happened. (Besides, If Jesus told Peter it was none of his business, then it is none of the business of the church either)

21:25 This is all true.

Like we said before: Have you, through the signs done by Jesus in turning water to wine, healing the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda, feeding the 5000, walking on water, healing the man born blind, raising Lazarus from the dead and “many other signs not recorded in this book”, come to believe in Jesus and do you continue to believe?

Then you will have life to the full now and eternal life in his name.

Trust in God. Trust also in Jesus.