

⑤ what changed Christ's disciples from being self-serving to others focused?

Let's look at Peter: he left everything to follow Christ → he reminded Christ of that fact then he broke all his promises → denying Christ being the worst. After Christ's resurrection Peter 'bailed out' & quit — he went back to fishing

Jesus met Peter on shore after a night of fishing + catching nothing — then the miracle of the net full of fish (just like Christ did when He called Peter). This time Christ asks

Q Peter the embarrassing question: "Peter, do you love Me?"

Imagine a face-to-face encounter with Jesus who keeps asking you a single question with that penetrating gaze which cuts to the very depths of your being?

It is no coincidence that Jesus showed up on that beach calling Peter back to the commitment he once had: in Jesus' mind the central issue was about Peter's love for Him, not about the mission Jesus takes it personally when we lose our "first-love" and turn back to our self-centered life. Because then we will not care for people, the mission Christ gave to Peter & to us. Notice Christ re-commissioned Peter "Shepherd my sheep"

④⑥

When Peter went back to his fishing business it was for the real "necessity" of providing for his family - what he needed in life became paramount.

Fish Q → "Simon Peter, do you love Me more than these?"

Did Peter love fish - did he love his old life, his old comforts - more than he loved his Lord?

I can't imagine Peter saying at this point:

→ "Actually, Lord, I like you a lot but I really am into fish at this stage of my life"

But Jesus saw into Peter's heart and into our hearts as He challenges us about living out our love for Him into the lives of others

In this story Jesus challenges Peter's failure in 3 steps - in order to transition Peter from fishing back to a love for Jesus and to the mission of reaching people

→ ① Embrace Christ's call again - Follow Me

→ ② Bring his failures to Christ - regardless of failure, Jesus wants to forgive + cleanse + recommission

→ ③ Trust Christ to provide - He had already told Peter to "seek first the kingdom" - and all his needs would be cared for - as He said "Your Father knows you have need of these things". We may go off mission for personal gain or to met our own needs but it is never a reason. It is only an excuse! Jesus provides He provides GRACE, WISDOM, RESOURCES, TIME

When I went back to the fishing
business it was for the real necessity
of providing for his family. What he needed
was a steady income.

So I gave Peter, as you have the money
I'll Peter love fish. But he love his old life.

His old love fish - was then he love his old life.

I can't imagine Peter copying to this point.
"Actually, I'd like to know what I really am
and what I'm doing with my life."

But from our own Peter's heart and
I would be surprised if he stayed in the
business for the rest of his life.

of course

In this story from the challenges Peter
facing in 3 steps - it's a bit of a transition

from fishing back to a love for
and to the mission of working people.

1. I believe Christ's call again - Follow Me

2. Being his follower to Christ - regardless
of the cost to the world and the church.

3. Trust Christ to provide - He has already
told Peter to "leave the net" and all

his nets would be cast for us. He said
"How much longer will you be here of these
things?" We may do off mission for personal
gain or to meet our own needs but it is never a

mission from providence! It is only an excuse!
The providence GRACE. WISDOM. RESOURCES. TIME

①

Jesus repeated the question "Do you love Me?" three times to drive Peter past the affirmation of his love to the action proving his love i.e. if you love Me, you will care about what I care about: people. People are precious to Jesus, they are His prized possessions - He died for each one - He loves them - He is looking for us to love Him enough to help Him reach those people

God's earthside wealth is the valuable commodity of people - they are the only part of His creation that He created in His image why? So that He could be glorified through them and fellowship with them

II Cor. 6:16 - and all through the Bible God states His Purpose - Christ came to give His life a ransom for many (Mt. 20:28)

His life was singularly focused on people - they are the only commodity at risk in the unseen warfare between God & Satan

→ and the only entity going all the way into eternity - only people count!

→ Do you love Christ?

Then Feed His sheep i.e. loving Jesus means caring for people - the welfare of their lives and especially their eternal destiny

