



SERMON CHEAT SHEET

THE FINAL WORDS | John 21:1-23

FINDING HOPE IN FORGIVENESS

Listen for His Voice in Dark Times

When we find ourselves in a season of hopelessness, it's often hard to see the light. Remember the disciples who returned to their fishing business after the trauma of crucifixion and resurrection. They fished all night without success until Jesus appeared, offering guidance. Like them, we too can hear Jesus' voice in our darkest hours, inviting us to cast our nets on the other side, where He promises abundance. In our struggles, whether big or small, let's not miss the chance to expect His presence along our daily paths, from our morning coffee to our evening reflections.

Receiving Forgiveness and Restoration

Peter's story is one of grace; despite his denial of Christ three times, Jesus meets him with love and restoration by the charcoal fire. Each question, 'Do you love me?' becomes a profound opportunity for Peter to reaffirm his commitment and be restored. This exchange reminds us that no matter how far we may think we've strayed, God's grace is greater than our failures. If you've felt unworthy or separated from Christ, know that forgiveness and restoration are not just possible, they're waiting for you.

Avoiding the Comparison Trap

When Peter notices John following them, he falls into the trap of comparison, asking what will happen to John. Jesus gently steers him back by saying, '*What is that to you? You follow me.*' Our journeys are uniquely tailored by God, and comparing ourselves to others can rob us of the joy found in our own path. Just as the shoal of 153 fish symbolizes the diverse community the Gospel reaches, we each have a role to play. Focus on living out your personal calling.

Obedience is Reflected in Actions

Jesus commands Peter to '*Feed my sheep,*' transitioning him from fisherman to shepherd. This call to action emphasizes that our faith must manifest in obedience, not merely in knowledge or emotional belief. Every declaration of love must be paired with action; our faith is made visible in how we care and serve others in Christ's name.

Cherishing Our Unique Calling

Each of us is entrusted with a calling that plays a crucial role in God's Kingdom. We may never be in the spotlight, but our faithfulness in service contributes to the broader tapestry of God's work. As we embrace our unique journey, let's encourage one another to stay focused on our divine appointments and be diligent, knowing that our efforts will yield fruit in ways we may never see.

LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Spend intentional time in prayer this week, asking God to reveal His presence in your ordinary moments.
- Identify one area in your life where you need to extend forgiveness or seek restoration; take a step towards it this week.
- Practice gratitude by keeping a journal of the unique blessings and callings you see in your life and others'.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray for clarity and assurance in listening for God's voice during challenging times.
- Ask for the strength and humility to accept and embrace God's grace and forgiveness in your life.
- Lift up those in your community who struggle with comparison and encourage them to find joy in their individual journeys.