

“How to Glorify God, part 3”

John 21:1-22

We are studying how to glorify God. We talked of its importance. Glorifying God is the purpose for which we exist. We also explored the reasons why we must glorify God. By way of review, let me cite three of these reasons. **[1]** We must glorify God because He deserves to be glorified. **[2]** We must glorify God because we were created to glorify Him. **[3]** We must glorify God because glorifying God marks us as believers.

The last time we were together, we began discovering how we can bring glory to God. We started by discovering we can glorify God in our suffering. God receives glory if we respond properly to the troubles which intrude into our lives. Today, we will learn we also glorify God by doing God's will at any cost.

I. The Example – Peter

II. The Exercise – Doing God's Will

I. The Example – Peter

A. In **John 21** we find the account of our Lord's encounter with His disciples after His resurrection. In **Mark 16:6-7** we read the instructions from an angel at the Lord's grave.

“But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.’”

1. This set the stage for what we find in **John 21**. When the wait gets too much, Peter, their natural leader, suggests a course of action in (**verse 3**) when he says, ***“I am going fishing.”*** This is probably more than a statement of his intention at the moment. It is a statement of his decision to go back to the life he once knew, the life of a professional fisherman.

2. Because Peter is a natural leader, the other disciples follow right along behind him and the next thing you know they are in a boat busy about the task of returning to life as they once knew it before Jesus had come by in their lives. There was only one problem. They caught no fish.

B. Then Jesus came by (**vs.4-17**).

1. You know the story. Jesus asked them if they have caught any fish. They answered, ***“No.”*** Have you ever wondered why the Lord did not allow them to catch any fish? I think it might have been so that they would learn that, even in

secular pursuits, they could not succeed without the Lord's help. We need to learn as the truth of **John 15:5**.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

2. Jesus told them to cast their net on the other side of the boat and immediately they caught a lot of fish. After breakfast, the Lord confronts His hardheaded disciple, Peter.

vs.15-17 "So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, 'Feed My lambs.' He said to him again a second time, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, 'Tend My sheep.' He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed My sheep.'"

3. The Lord gave Peter a specific way to demonstrate his love for the Lord. He must ***"feed My lambs."*** ***"Pastor My sheep."*** ***"Feed My sheep."*** Our love to the Lord is expressed in obedience and service.

C. Next, the Lord did something surprising. He told Peter his future (**vs.18-19**).

1. Now why did the Lord tell Peter what would happen in his future? Most of us do not know how and when we will die, but the Lord told Peter. Our Lord told Peter to encourage him. Peter had just come through some pretty severe testing and his performance left much to be desired. It must have seemed to him that he would fail every test.

2. The Lord said, in effect, Peter, one day you will be given the choice to either deny me and live or confess me and die, and you will choose to confess me and die. You will pass the greatest test of your life!

3. While Peter understood what Jesus said, it is possible we would not understand. So, the Apostle John added a divine editorial comment in **verse 19**. ***"This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God."***

Here we see that we glorify God by being willing to do God's will at any cost.

II. The Exercise – Doing God's Will

A. How do we glorify God in doing His will at any cost? The Apostle Paul told us in **Romans 12:1- 2**.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

We in 21st century America don't really have a good grasp of what is involved in being a living sacrifice. This is because we really have no understanding of what it is to be a sacrifice at all.

B. A sacrifice is a once and for all irrevocable commitment to the Lord. Once the sheep was given to the priest there was no turning back, no changing one's mind. We, too, are to give ourselves as a living sacrifice for the Lord, to commit ourselves to doing His will, nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else.

C. We put being a living sacrifice into action by letting God renew our minds through His word.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Our values and thoughts should be different and so our lifestyles also must be different from the age in which we live. Here is what living in obedience looked like in the Apostle Paul.

Philippians 1:20 ***“According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.”***

How do we glorify God? We glorify God in doing His will at any cost. The question is: Are we willing to do this?

Hymn #372 *Living For Jesus*