

“God Has Different Ways to Probe Our Conscience”

John 20:24-31; 21:1-9

Tuesday Bible Lunch

May 31, 2022

Introduction: My third favorite site to visit in the Holy Land is the Church of the Primacy. It is located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. John chapter 21 records what happened at this special site. John chapter 20 gives the background.

Text: John 20:24-31 (background)

1. God has different ways to probe our conscience (21:1-9).

- The first thing Jesus did to probe Peter’s conscience involved the “fire of coals.”
- When Peter saw the “fire of coals” he would have remembered warming his hands over the “fire of coals” when he denied even knowing Jesus (John 18:18). The Greek word *anthrakia* is translated in our Bibles as “fire of coals” and is only use in these two places.
- The second thing Jesus did to probe Peter’s conscience involved the bread and fish. When Peter saw Jesus feeding the disciples (21:13) he would have remembered seeing Jesus feeding the 5,000 men plus women and children (John 6:1-14). Matthew records women and children with the 5,000 men (Matthew 14:21).

Application: In our lives, there are places, things, and people that sometimes remind us that with past actions and words we too have denied Christ. When they come to our mind, we need to:

- Confess them to God and put them under the blood of Jesus.
- See them as good things to remind us not to go that way again.
- Guilt can be a good thing if it is dealt with properly.

T.S. Another reason the Church of the Primacy is my third special site to visit in the Holy Land is that it reminds me that God uses imperfect people.

2. God uses imperfect people.

- Peter is an example of this truth.
- Peter denied knowing Christ three times (Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14: 66-72; Luke 22:55-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27).

- In Matthew, Mark and Luke's record of Peter's denials, we read that Peter went out and wept bitterly (Matthew 26:75; Mark 14:72; Luke 22:62).

Illustration: After Jesus restored Peter (John 21) God used Peter in a wonderful way. Acts chapters 1-12 record Peter's work for God. Peter wrote two books in the New Testament (1&2 Peter).

Application: God is not looking for perfection. God is looking for progression.

Conclusion: There is no sin that God cannot forgive. There is no sin that God will not forgive if we repent of it. The key is to remember that regret is not repentance.