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# The Last Dance Part Two John 21:15-19

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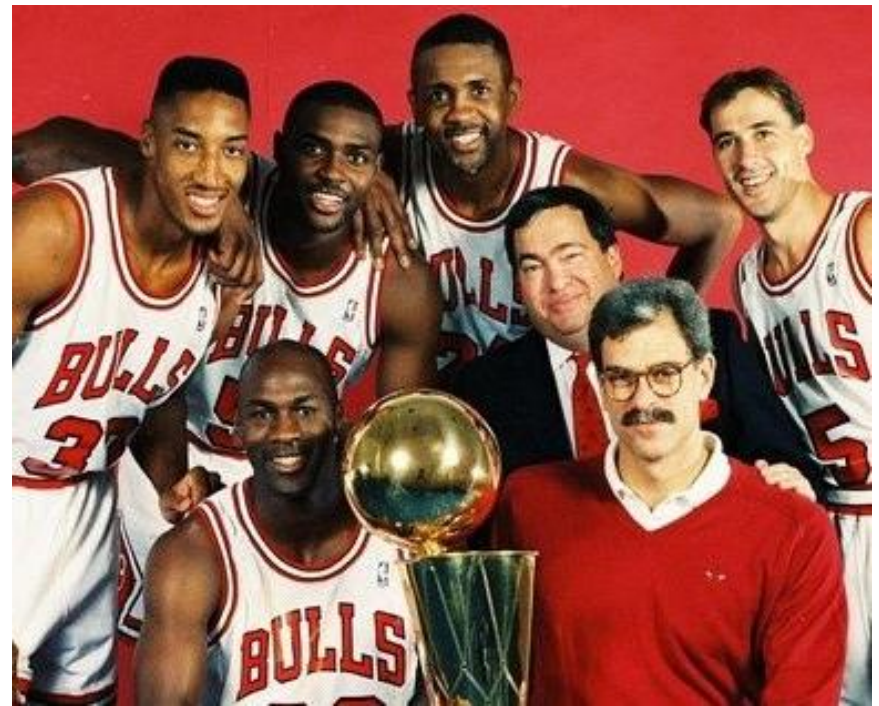


# Observations

THE PHRASE “THE LAST DANCE,” IS A METAPHOR COINED BY COACH PHIL JACKSON TO DESCRIBE THE LAST CHAMPIONSHIP-WINNING SEASON OF THE CHICAGO BULLS BEFORE THEY WERE DISMANTLED BY MANAGEMENT

THEIR LAST YEAR HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A 10-PART DOCUMENTARY SERIES, RECENTLY AIRING FOR 5 CONSECUTIVE SUNDAY NIGHTS, WATCHED BY APPROXIMATELY 6 MILLION VIEWERS EACH NIGHT (IT NOW HAS ATTRACTED 13 MILLION ON- DEMAND NETFLIX VIEWERS AS OF LAST WEEK)

IT FEATURED MICHAEL JORDAN, CALLED BY MANY THE G.O.A.T., BUT ALSO CHRONICLED THE LIVES AND PERSONALITIES OF SEVERAL OF HIS TEAMMATES THAT HAD TO MESH TOGETHER FOR THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON (62W-20L) PIPPEN, RODMAN, KERR, KUKOC, LONGLEY, COACH JACKSON)



# Observations

- The phrase, “The Last Dance,” also can be used as a metaphor to describe the last days of Jesus with His disciples, which were filled with meaningful dialogue and actions with Jesus that either helped or hurt His mission
- On last Sunday we discussed the disciple on Jesus’ team named Judas
- We discussed how Jesus had fulfilled prophecy, predicting His betrayal, allowed Judas to remain with the disciples in His earthly mission in spite of prior knowledge of his conspiracy, and made a final appeal specifically to Judas to save him that he turned down.





# Peter

- Peter is probably the disciple, whose interactions with Jesus, the scriptures speak of most often
- We read of his exciting moments, like when Jesus first gives Peter advice on catching fish, or when He allowed Peter to walk on water
- We see his disappointing moments, such as when he denied the Lord three times as the Lord had predicted and cried (*We wonder, “How could he do that,?” until we think about our own denials of Jesus in our lives*)—*pleasing others, ourselves*
- He is the disciple, therefore, that many of us identify with the most



# Observations

- **John chapter 21 occurs after the trial of Jesus, the denial by Peter, the crucifixion, the burial and the resurrection.**
- **Peter is back with several of the remaining disciples and announces, *“I’m going fishing!”* They replied, *“We are going with you!”***
- **I suggest to you that this was not just another fishing expedition; but for them, it was a comfort or solace for a group of men who had just been through significant events of pain, fear, intense stress, sorrow and the loss of their beloved leader**
- **But didn’t they voluntarily leave their careers for Jesus’ new life for them? (Luke 5:11)**
- **Having been introduced to the life of Jesus, they were now going back to what our Lord had said would not satisfy them. Luke 9:62**



# The Principle

***ONCE YOU TRULY  
MEET JESUS, YOU  
CAN'T GO BACK TO  
BUSINESS AS USUAL!***

**The Story of  
Zacchaeus and his  
career, Luke 19:1-10  
(career, marriage,  
parenting, unhealthy  
habits)**

# Observations

- In John 21, The disciples fished in their boat all night, and hadn't caught a thing—like when they first met Jesus
- The next morning they see a man on the shore who shouted to them, questioning their fishing results (no fish), and instructed them to cast their nets on the other side of their little boat (verse 8) for better results (153 great fish, verse 11)
- Do you see how close we can be to a blessing, but if we ignore God's word (by the choices we make) we will miss it?!
- The desires we want can be just on the other side of our obedience to His will, if only we would yield to Him. *"Delight thyself also in the Lord: and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."* Psalms 37:4



# Observations

- After the “miraculous fish prediction” that Jesus, who was unrecognized on the shore, had just foretold (verse 7); Peter recognized, “*It is the Lord.*” He remembered the same thing happening before when he first met Jesus, Luke 5
- Question: Has Jesus ever done something in your life situation that was so “peculiar” to everyone else; but it was exactly what you needed, thereby increasing your faith (no one else would know but Jesus)?
- Peter got so excited that he tied his garments back on and cast himself into the water to swim to the shore where Jesus was (approximately 30 yards)
- Was it a guilty conscience moving him to do the unnecessary? (his boat was headed to shore anyway)

**A guilty conscience can often cause an overreaction**



# Observations

- **Beginning in verse 15, Jesus enters into a personal conversation with Peter (picture that in your mind)**
- **Notice that Jesus doesn't specifically bring up Peter's most recent actions, which Peter knew all too well:**
  - **His vow of loyalty, above that of the other disciples, Matt. 26:33**
  - **His flat-out denial of Jesus three times, ending with cursing and swearing on his part, Matthew 26:69-75**
  - **The look Jesus gave him after Peter denied knowing him on 3 occasions the same night, Luke 22:61**
  - **The bitter weeping after the incident, Luke 22:62**

# Jesus' Personal Conversation Explores Peter's Weaknesses

- First, Jesus addresses him as “Simon,” not “Peter” (meaning “rock,” the name Jesus gave him)

This is the same name Jesus uses in Luke 22:31

*“....Simon, Simon! Indeed Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”*

- Second, the phrase “*lovest thou me,*” which Jesus uses three times, painfully coincides with Jesus’ knowledge of the number of times that Peter denied Him

# “Lovest Thou Me More Than These?” What Did Jesus Mean?

- Did the “these” refer to Peter’s money-making potential with the fish that he was catching, and the pleasures and comforts that he could have in the future?
- To the point, did the “these” refer to Peter’s career: “Peter, will I have to compete with your time because of your love for your job?”
- Did the “these” refer to his friends’ love for Jesus based on his previous boast that his love was greater than theirs? Matthew 26:33
- The scriptures don’t define “these,” but “these” applies to us

# Question:

***WHAT IS IT, THAT WE LOVE IN OUR LIVES SO MUCH, THAT WE DARE NOT LOSE IT?***

***(A career, a dream, a person, our sexuality, money)***

***(Our demand to live our lives as we want)***

***As long as you hold onto to the “these,” there will always be a separation between you and God! Isaiah 59:1-2***

# Several Points Concern Jesus' Answers to Peter's Professed Love

**“Feed My Lambs,” “Feed My Sheep,” “Feed My Sheep”**

- **Peter, having reached rock bottom now, received encouragement from Jesus**
- **Peter was not removed from his leadership role, but was shown that his service (if he would be consistent with it), would be more important now than ever**
- **A person who has fallen most deeply, and learned most thoroughly their own weakness, ought now to be best qualified for strengthening the weak, or “the lambs”**
- **Here is a man who had morally crucified the son of God and put Him to an open shame, but now will use his consistent living after his correction, for God's glory**

# Observations

- **Jesus tells Peter that remembering your own past frailties will make you a better leader**
- **Jesus tells Peter that by knowing that there was a time when you needed my forgiveness, and my favor because you had performed so poorly, and you needed grace and mercy from me (and you got it); as a leader you can be more compassionate and forgiving than most leaders feeding the flock (sheep)**
- **Peter is a different man now**

# The Spiritual Maturation of Peter

He no longer compares himself and believes he is better than the other disciples like he used to Matthew 26:33

His bragging spirit has left him—he is a wiser, more humble man, as indeed a future Pastor or Elder would need to be

You get the impression that he no longer thinks of himself, *“more highly than he ought to think,”*  
*Romans 12:3*

Jesus alluded to Peter’s sin, by asking him three times what the young girl had caused him to deny 3 times

A man who truly understands what his sins have done to him and his relationship with God, is in a better position to give nourishment to a flock of God’s people.

*Galatians 6:1*

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# The Plan Of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**

**Luke 13:3,5**

**Confess Christ**

**Matthew 10:32**

**Be Baptized**

**Acts 2:38**