

Coach House Church BEACONS

A JOURNEY TO LOVE

19TH OCTOBER 2020

How is your hindsight? Are you able to look back on your life and see where you have been, where you come from ? to see where the crossroads were to meditate on the the choices you made and where they have taken you, what they have thought you?

Most of us, looking back are able to recognise the key moments in our life but we would not be able to see the complete picture. Only the Lord can do that. Everyone of us is on a personal journey. And if you walk with Jesus you know that we are a work in progress.

As Christians in our time, we are extremely blessed as we have so many others that lived before us that left us their legacy of lives lived for and with Christ. Further more we have the word of God, the bible , where we can find answers and solutions to questions and problems. The first christians had non of these.

Today I would like us to look at apostle John and what his life journey witnessed to; where he came from, where he ended up and finally, what can we learn from him.

John was a fisherman. His father was a fisherman, his brother was a fisherman too. What we need to be mindful of is that fisherman in John's time were uneducated and looked down at by other people. It wasn't a glamorous trade, quite the opposite.

Coming from a family of fishermen, John was a simple man with a simple and basic understanding of the world. He was probably expected to take over his father's net fishing business when the he would be too old to go fishing. He must have joined his father to the synagogue, on the sabbath day ,from an early age to learn about The Lord just like every other male in Israel.

He had his life planned out. Until he was met by Jesus. Then everything changed. He became a fisher of people. However, Jesus had to work on John before he could be that great fisher of people for the Lord's kingdom.

The John before meeting and being changed by Jesus was ambitious. In Mark 10 v 35-40 John together with his brother ask Jesus to put them right next to Himself in his coming kingdom . John wanted the best seat; he wanted to be the first of the disciples.

John was judgemental. We can read the account in Luke 9:51-55 where John wants to call down fire from heaven to burn the unbelieving Samaritans. Off course Jesus had other opinion.

John misunderstood Jesus' purpose on the Earth. Just like the other disciples, John thought Jesus will overthrow Rome and set his kingdom on Earth. This we see from the fact that John wants to secure a place next to Jesus in this kingdom. But enough with pointing out John's faults. I'd like to point out his journey not his faults. From the man that wants to call down fire from heaven, John becomes known as the apostle of love . This is because throughout his writings Love is a mega-theme. The fishermen from Galilee understands God's plan for himself and humanity.

This is what John writes in his second letter chapter 3 :

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. "

And further down in the same chapter he says :

.. Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister."

Here John is much older and not yet exiled on the isle of Patmos; probably the only eye witness to Christ' life left. He writes to the church, encouraging the believers with the authority that only a close relationship with the Lord gives.

Here John has learned to love, the man that once wanted to call fire from the sky to burn unbelievers, tells us here that the only way to come close to God is to love the people around us. We can see that John traveled a long way.

Let's take a minute and think about where we have been , where we are and where are we heading. Can you see the difference in yourself from last year? Have you been growing? Have you learned more about Jesus and are you maturing in your faith ? Most of all, are you growing in love?

Let me close with the verses that open Paul's letter to the Philippians:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:3-6 NIV

Amen



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