

Joy of Discipleship

John 21:1-19

“Joy of discipleship.” is the second of our five-part *Joyful Journey* sermon series. It’s about our identity. It’s about the joy that comes when we follow Jesus.

Denying our identity, as Peter did, is an all too often reality. We deny who we are because we worry we won’t meet expectations, afraid to disappoint or we could be judged or rejected. We won’t be like or loved for who we truly are. So, we play it safe. And if this is the way we feel with other people, even those closest to us, it’s true probably with Jesus too.

1. In the gospel of John, on the night before Jesus’ crucifixion, Peter says, “I do not know him. In the other four gospels, Peter says, “I am not his disciple.” What differences do you see in these two accounts?
2. Like Peter, Jesus calls you to be his disciple, i.e. to be the shepherd in his place. What are ways you are uniquely able to feed his lambs and tend his sheep?
3. What fears, worries, and insecurities keep you “playing it safe” rather than living into your identity in Christ?

Near the beginning of John’s gospel, Jesus says, “Follow me.” Wrapping things up near the end of John’s gospel, Jesus again says, “Follow me.” Why? Because he wants you to know the joy of discipleship, of following his joy. Discipleship is more than a death-march into an ethical but boring life. It is a joyous discovery of identity and purpose. It is a journey with the Lord whose face beams.

1. Jesus’ great joy is having us remember who we are. How does remembering who you are relate to being his disciple?
2. Jesus says, “Follow me,” because he knows the joy that awaits you. Describe times of joy you’ve experienced as his disciple.
3. Solemnity does have a place in our following Jesus. Can you describe times, however, when it goes too far, i.e. when solemnity overshadows joy?