

Introduction – "Is there some sin in your life which you think God can never forgive?"

- 1 As you look back over your life is there some sin in your life that you think God can never forgive?
- 2 In Johannesburg, South Africa many years ago we had a neighbour called Allan who had been forced to join the South African army during apartheid years to defend borders in Nth Namibia.
- 3 As soldier, had to shoot to kill or be killed-had killed some "terrorists", had great guilt about this
- 4 When he returned home, he became a nervous wreck, lost his car repair business, battled with guilt
- 5 Spent many hours teaching Bible re forgiveness eg David-refused to believe-Hospital-many have guilt
- 6 Today will look at 2 very important questions in John 21, incl. Peter being forgiven after denying Jesus

I 21:1-14 Background to the Two Questions

A Luke 22:31-34 Before his crucifixion Jesus warned Peter that he would deny he knew Jesus 3 times

- 1 22:31-32 Lord warned Peter Satan was trying to test/destroy his faith, but Jesus prayed Peter's faith wouldn't fail
- 2 After he had turned back, Lord told him to strengthen his Christian brothers
- 3 22:33 Peter responded without thinking by saying he was ready to go with Jesus to prison or death
- 4 22:34 However Lord Jesus told Peter that before the rooster crows, he will deny he knew Jesus 3x
- 5 Peter didn't know his weaknesses of pride & cowardice but Jesus knew all about it—we'd be same

B John 18:17, 25-27 Despite Jesus' warning' Peter did deny he knew Jesus 3 times

- 1 Peter was nearby where Jesus was being held before his trial early on that 1st Good Friday morn.
- 2 18:17, 25-27 Three separate servants asked Peter if he was not one of Jesus' disciples
- 3 As Jesus had prophesied, Peter did deny he knew Jesus 3 separate times, then rooster crowed

C Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:3-5 After His resurrection Jesus appeared 1st to Peter among disciples

- 1 Lord had been preparing Peter & others to become leaders in His church, so denial was setback
- 2 Lord knew Peter's heart, as he had cried bitterly when the Lord had looked at him after his denial
- 3 Peter'd shown Lord he'd truly repented, so Lord wanted to reassure Peter by appearing 1st to him

D 21:1-14 After His resurrection Jesus appeared to 7 of His disciples at Sea of Tiberius/Galilee

- 1 In these opening verses, Peter & 6 other disciples went fishing the whole night without success
- 2 Early next morning, man asked if they had caught fish, told them to throw the net on right side
- 3 Caught huge number of fish didn't break nets (153), John realized it was Jesus, Peter jumped in
- 4 Lord Jesus cooked breakfast for them – 3rd time had appeared to his disciples after resurrection

II 21:13-19 Lord Jesus asked Peter the same basic Questions three times with some Variations

A 21:15-17 The Interview – Basic Question Repeated Three Times in front of the 6 other disciples

- 1 Peter was embarrassed in front of friends-but crucial he be publically restored to leadership post
- 2 Lord asked Simon Peter whether he truly loved Jesus more than these-not clear more than what?
 - a More than 6 other disciples loved Jesus
 - or b More than his fishing career, boat, equipment ...
 - or c Did he love 6 other disciples more than he loved Jesus- Not clear, but probably all 3 of the above
- 4 As Ch'ns we are commanded to love God & Lord Jesus with all our heart, soul, mind and strength
- 5 We may a know much about Christianity b Do much in church c Talk & work much d Give much to the church e Say and do right things on outside-But how much do we love Jesus inside our hearts?
- 6 To fulfil his role Peter must a Accept Jesus' full control over his life & b Obey Jesus' plan for him?
- 7 Peter made it very clear he did love Lord Jesus, but 21:17 was upset with same question asked 3 x
- 8 Peter had also hurt Jesus with his denials, 3rd with curse, so Lord reminds Peter of his earlier failur

B 21:15-17 Peter's response to Jesus' questions was that Jesus knew Peter loved Him

- 1 Peter was humbled in front of his friends, but Jesus wanted him to declare publically he loved Jesus
- 2 His 3 responses were really indirect-3rd time responded "You know all things –you know I love you"

C 21:15-17 Peter's Job Description Repeated Three Times

- 1 In response to Peter, Jesus showed He'd forgiven him by giving him responsibilities & work to do
- 2 Peter is told to feed sheep/lambs, being young & old people that belong to Jesus in the world
- 3 Peter was to care for his fellow believers - nurture, teach, encourage, help them grow spiritually
- 4 Jesus had already given him job when first called-be fisher of men/woman to bring them to Jesus
- 4 Peter's told to evangelise non-believers, plus disciple, train God's people, pastor, shepherd Chns
- 5 Although Peter had failed the Lord badly before his death yet Lord was giving him 2nd chance-you
- 6 Acts 1-12 shows God really blessed & used Peter to help establish His church in Jerusalem, Judea..

D 21:18-19 Peter's Commissioning would end with a painful Death – Lord knows our futures

- 1 In these verses the Lord is telling Peter about his future ministry and in the end how he will die
- 2 He is to serve the Lord, as Lord directed, but at end his hands will be stretched out – prophecy he would be crucified (upside down)will suffer a painful death – had to live with this news until death
- 3 Peter was promised a tough life of service, followed by a tough death - many Chns experience this
- 4 Physical death of every believer is intended to glorify God-Chns are sure they are going to heaven
- 5 eg Polycarp, Smyrna refused to deny Jesus, Latimer/Ridley testified when burnt –many fear death

E Challenges for all Christians

- 1 Satan tempts-serve self,not God-God wants us to confess hidden sin/guilt ask Him to forgive 1 Jn1:
- 2 Do we love Jesus more than any person/thing give him 1st place-take up our cross daily, serve him
- 3 God has work for each to do. Each must a Share your faith with non-believers by what you say/do
b Find the spiritual gift(s) God has given, use these to feed, encourage & disciple fellow Christians

III 21:20-25 Peter asked the Lord Jesus a Question about John's Future Ministry

A 21:20-22 Lord told Peter not to worry about John, but "You must follow Me" – Romans 14:10-12

- 1 When Peter was told to follow Jesus, turned around, saw John, he asked Lord - What will John do?
- 2 Lord told Peter to think about how he should love/serve Jesus- mind your own business about John
- 3 Can counsel/help/pray, advise others-then must let them decide before God how to serve him
- 4 Rom. 14:10-12 Each must give an account of our lives to Jesus-so obey Him-can't tell others what to do

B 21:22a, 23-24 Peter and John's ministries would be different and end differently – Hebrews 12:1-4

- 1 Peter's life would end abruptly whereas John would live long- Wrote John gospel; 1-3 John; Revel
- 2 In Acts, they often shared ministry together, healed cripple, were imprisoned, beaten, persecuted

IV What we learn from this second question?

- 1 John's purpose in writing his letter is summarised in John 20:30-31 for you to decide – do you
a Believe Jesus is Messiah/God's Son b Having believed (+repented), do you have life in his name?
- 2 Do not decide for others how they should serve the Lord. Is not your business-between each & God
- 3 God has a plan for each Christian - between that Christian and God according to God's will for each
a Find out God's plan for you and seek to serve Him in the world each day wherever He places you
b As each Christian reads the Bible & prays each day, ask Lord Jesus "How must I follow you today?"
- 4 eg Hansie C. failed, but restored to Lord months before he died in plane crash during storm at 33yo
Tempted by bookmaker took money- confessed–depressed for months - repented/restored to Lord