

'Confronting Distraction'
Sunday 25th April 2021
Small Community Questions

Key Scriptures: John 21:15-25 & Luke 10:38-41

Summary:

I wonder if you would consider yourself an easily distracted person? A distraction could be a physical thing like a screen, social media, Netflix or it could be a pattern of thought, a false belief you hold about yourself or God. What is it that divides you and pulls you away from your focus?

On Sunday, we opened up our third post resurrection moment with Jesus. This moment finds us with Jesus and Peter. It is the point in the story where Jesus reinstates and restores Peter after his 3 denials of Jesus, only days earlier. This is also a moment where Jesus confronts distraction, releases purpose and gives focus too.

Our two areas of focus on Sunday were:

- 1. The focus of LOVE**
- 2. The focus of FOLLOWING**

We looked at the different love words (agape and phileo) that are used in this dialogue:

Agape - the unconditional, sacrificial, all in love that God loves us with

Phileo - the friendship, affectionate, fond of love

We discover that even though Peter isn't yet ready to commit to loving Jesus in the agape way, that doesn't stop Jesus using Peter or continuing to walk alongside him.

We also spend some time looking at Jesus command towards Peter to 'follow me'. This is where we find our moment of distraction and Jesus' confrontation of that distraction. As Peter looks behind him, Jesus draws his attention back towards the focus that He has already given Peter, to 'follow Him'.

There are often times where the distracted action in of itself is not a bad thing, it just might not be the best choice in that particular moment. We see this here in another moment in Luke 10 where Jesus confronts distraction but also gives purpose and focus. In His dealings with Martha, Jesus tells her that in this moment, only one thing is needed and that would have been the better choice.

What are the things that distract you from the focus on loving Jesus more and following Him more closely? And how can you make the better choices over the coming days and weeks?

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Questions:

1. If Jesus asked if you 'agape' loved Him, what would your answer be right now?
2. If you were to allow Jesus to confront your distractions, what might those distractions be for you?
3. Are there things behind you that are a distraction to you from moving forward in your relationship with Jesus?
4. Looking at the way Jesus dealt with Martha in Luke 10, what might your 'better choices' be over the next week and over the coming months?