Making it About Jesus July 11, 2021

*John 21:15-22 Guest Speaker: Rick Buck*

Intro: Let’s look at a conversation Jesus had with one of his disciples just prior to leaving this earth. Jesus was trying to give him (and all of us) **critical truths to be able to spiritually flourish** this side of heaven – so that we might make a difference for Him.

1. God wants us to do more than just survive; He wants us to thrive (even in the challenges of life). In our text (John 21:15-22) the Apostle Peter has lost his focus and sense of mission. He is at a minimum distracted, more likely discouraged and defeated. *Peter’s life had become about something other than Jesus.*
* In what ways do you feel your life has become about something other than Jesus?

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1. Jesus tells Peter that thriving in this life is about loving Jesus first-making Him your first love.
* Would you say Jesus is your first love? If not, what are some things in your life that take His place? And if He is, what helps you keep Him in His rightful place?
* What is the relationship between loving God first and loving people? (Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him, and then says, “Feed my sheep”).

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1. Thriving is also about looking to Jesus always... not to others. Peter compares himself to John, but Jesus says to keep his eyes on Him…“You must follow me” (v 22).
* Where are you looking today? What are some things in our culture that often distract us and take our eyes off Jesus?
* How does comparing ourselves to others and their lives distract us from what God has for us?

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We will only thrive in this life when we have a strong love for and look to Jesus!

 Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Kings 8:1-21.