

PULPIT COMPANION

YOUR EMPTY IS ENOUGH

JOHN 21:1-17

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In this powerful message, we're reminded that our emptiness is not a barrier to God's love, but an invitation for His grace.

The story of Jesus appearing to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-17) serves as a profound illustration of God's restorative power. Just as Jesus met the disciples in their moment of failure and confusion, He meets us in our brokenness. The symbolism of Jesus cooking breakfast on the shore - the very place where Peter had denied Him - shows us that God doesn't avoid our trauma, but redeems it. We're challenged to shift our perspective from relying on our own strength to surrendering to God's will.

This message encourages us to bring our imperfect love to Jesus, assuring us that He builds His purpose on our honest, albeit flawed, affection. As we journey in faith, we're called to remember that God's grace is sufficient, and our 'yes' to Him is enough for Him to use us powerfully.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- John 21:1-17
- Luke 5:5-6
- Matthew 25:33
- John 18:18
- Revelation 3:20
- Song of Solomon 2:4
- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Isaiah 42:3
- John 14:15
- Psalm 121 (alluded to, not directly quoted)





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Embracing God's Grace in Our Emptiness

Reading: John 21:1-14

Devotional: Just as Jesus met the disciples at their point of failure and emptiness, He meets us in our own moments of inadequacy. The disciples had fished all night and caught nothing, yet Jesus didn't rebuke them. Instead, He prepared a meal and offered guidance.

Reflect on times when you've felt empty or inadequate. How has God met you in those moments? Remember, your emptiness is not a barrier to God's love and purpose for your life. It's often in our emptiness that we're most open to receiving God's grace and direction.

Day 2: Surrendering Our Strength for God's Purpose

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Devotional: We often rely on our own strengths and abilities, thinking they're the key to our success. However, God's power is made perfect in our weakness. Peter, an experienced fisherman, caught nothing until he followed Jesus' seemingly illogical instruction.

Consider areas in your life where you're relying solely on your own strength. How might surrendering these to God open new possibilities? Today, practice saying "Yes" to God, even when it doesn't align with your own logic or expertise.

Day 3: Restoration at the Place of Failure

Reading: Luke 22:54-62 and John 21:15-19

Devotional: Jesus brought Peter back to a charcoal fire, reminiscent of where he had denied Christ, not to shame him but to restore him. God often works in our lives by revisiting places of past failure or pain to bring healing and new purpose.

Reflect on past failures or painful experiences in your life. How might God be using these as opportunities for restoration and growth? Trust that God's grace is greater than your past mistakes and that He can use even your failures for His glory.





Day 4: Loving God with Imperfect Love

Reading: 1 John 4:7-19

Devotional: When Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him, Peter couldn't match Jesus' "agape" love with his own "phileo" love. Yet Jesus still commissioned Peter for service. God doesn't require perfect love from us before He can use us. He works with the love we're able to offer.

Consider the depth of your love for God. Be honest about where you are in your journey. How can you express your current level of love for God today, even if it feels imperfect? Remember, God can work powerfully through our honest, albeit imperfect, expressions of love.

Day 5: Answering God's Call Despite Our Inadequacies

Reading: Exodus 3:1-14 and 4:10-17

Devotional: Moses felt inadequate when God called him, much like we often do when faced with God's assignments. Yet God used Moses mightily despite his perceived shortcomings.

Reflect on areas where you feel God might be calling you to serve or step out in faith. What inadequacies or fears are holding you back? Remember that God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. Your "yes" to God is more important than your perceived abilities or lack thereof. How can you say "yes" to God today, trusting Him to provide what you need?





SMALL GROUP GUIDE: “Your Empty is Enough”

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a prayer asking God to open hearts and minds to His word and guide the discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus seeks out those who feel empty, used up, or disqualified.
2. God's grace meets us where we are, not where we pretend to be.
3. Surrender, not strength, is what God requires from us.
4. God builds purpose on imperfect love and faithful hearts.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions "regression" as a natural response to trauma or change. Can you share a time when you regressed to familiar patterns instead of moving forward in faith?
2. Pastor says, "Miracles don't come through muscle, memory, or method - they come through the movement of obedience." How have you experienced this in your own life?
3. Reflect on the image of Jesus cooking breakfast for the disciples. How does this picture of Jesus challenge or comfort you?
4. The sermon states, "Grace doesn't avoid your trauma. It redeems you from it." How have you seen God's grace work in the painful areas of your life?
5. Discuss the difference between "agape" and "phileo" love. How does it encourage you that God accepts our imperfect love?
6. The pastor says, "Purpose does not wait for perfection. It moves at the speed of surrender." What areas of your life might God be calling you to surrender right now?





Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify an area where you've been relying on your own strength. Practice surrendering it to God through prayer and journaling.
2. Reach out to someone you know who might be feeling "empty" or disqualified. Encourage them with the message that God's grace is sufficient.
3. Reflect on your own "charcoal fire" moments - times of failure or denial. How can you invite Jesus to redeem those experiences?
4. Practice saying "yes" to God in small ways throughout your day, remembering that He builds on our willingness, not our perfection.

Closing Prayer:

End by thanking God for His grace and asking for the strength to live in surrender to Him.

Scripture for Further Study:

- John 21:1-17
- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Isaiah 42:3
- John 14:15

