

John 21

v.1 showed- manifested, revealed

v.3 **I am going fishing**: - they really didn't know their next step, so they went to what they knew until further revelation

- caught nothing “To be a fisherman, a man must expect disappointments; he must often cast in the net and bring up nothing but weeds. The minister of Christ must reckon upon being disappointed; and he must not be weary in well-doing for all his disappointments, but must in faith continue in prayer and labor, expecting that at the end he shall receive his reward.” (Spurgeon)

v.4-6 Jesus directs their work.

The previous three resurrection appearances in John's Gospel were *each unexpected*. This also seemed to be unexpected; the **disciples did not know that it was Jesus**.

Children, have you any food: Jesus spoke to His disciples with a common greeting that working men used amongst themselves. Yet He also made them explain an unsuccessful night of fishing, causing them to answer Him **no**.

Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some: Jesus made a strange suggestion to His disciples. There was no logical reason why fishing in the morning light would be better than fishing at night. There was no reason why fishing on one side of the boat would be better than the other side. It wasn't even directly a test of trust in Jesus, because they did not know it was Him until the fish were caught. This was probably a test of their ability to find the guidance of God in small and unsuspected ways – such as a stranger calling out fishing instructions from the shore.

This account illustrates the principle that we should never be afraid to change our method, as long as it is at the direction of Jesus.

“Perhaps, if they had not fished at night, Christ would not, have given them fish in the day time. He does not often come to bless idlers; he acts sovereignly, as I have said, but he generally gives his blessing to those churches that do the most for him.” (Spurgeon)

v.7-8 The disciples recognize Jesus on the shore.

It is the Lord: John reached the tomb before Peter ([John 20:4](#)) and recognized the fact of Jesus’ resurrection before Peter ([John 20:8](#)). Here John also recognized the identity of the stranger on the shore before Peter did. John knew that anything *this* wonderful had to come from Jesus.

153 fish- lots of theories but The truth is that all we know for certain is that 153 represents *the number of fish in the net*.

v.12 come and eat- **Boice reflected on** the many invitations of Jesus in the Gospels.

- Come and see ([John 1:39](#))
- Come and learn ([Matthew 11:28-29](#))
- Come and rest ([Mark 6:31](#))
- Come and dine ([John 21:12](#))
- Come and inherit ([Matthew 25:34-36](#))

v.13 **Jesus then came and took the bread:** did they remember the feeding of the thousands

i. **Gave it to them, and likewise the fish:** “Evidently there was something solemn and significant in His manner, indicating that they were to consider Him as the Person who supplied all their wants.” (Dods)

ii. “They ate the bread and fish that morning, I doubt not, in silent self-

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v. 15-16) The public restoration of Peter Jesus inquires about Peter’s love.

v.15 **Simon, son of Jonah:** Jesus addressed the leader among the disciples as **Simon**, not as *Peter*.

“There is an air of solemnity about John’s use of the full name, Simon Peter, and then of his reporting Jesus as using the expanded form, Simon son of John.”
(Morris)

c. **Do you love Me more than these:** Jesus asked Peter to compare *his* love for Jesus to the love that the *other disciples* had for Jesus. Before he denied Jesus three times Peter claimed to love Jesus *more* than the other disciples did ([Matthew 26:33](#)). Jesus wanted to know if Peter still had a proud estimation of his love and devotion to Jesus.

Peter had certainly given the impression at the Last Supper that he did, yet failed.

Jesus causes Peter to examine his heart and motivations

First two questions, Jesus uses agape- selfless love and Peter answers phileo- brotherly love. Last question Jesus uses phileo

Feed My lambs . . . Tend My sheep: After Jesus asked and Peter answered, Jesus twice gave Peter an instruction regarding how he should act towards God’s people. The idea was that Peter could demonstrate his claimed love for Jesus by feeding Jesus’ **lambs** and by tending Jesus’ **sheep**. Jesus emphasized that they were *His* sheep, not Peter’s.

Peter called on this shore, denied by the fire, denied three times

Trusting that Peter understood what Jesus meant, this must have given him a great chill. *Peter, you will die on a cross.* John the Gospel-writer understood, but wrote this many years after Peter’s death.

“Jerome says, that ‘he was crowned with martyrdom under Nero, being crucified with his head downwards and his feet upwards, because he alleged himself to be unworthy of being crucified in the same manner as his Lord.’” (Alford)

Follow Me: Great commission/discipleship

(20-23) What about John?

