

SALT Church

John 21:1-14

“It’s The Lord”

May 11, 2025

“I AM”

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Recap

- Last week we had the disciples hiding behind locked doors
 - They were afraid
 - Afraid of the religious leaders
 - Afraid of an unknown future
 - Afraid because they had let Jesus down
 - Then Jesus shows up and says:
- “Peace Be with You”
 - Jesus had every right to be angry
 - They had every right to be afraid
 - The religious leaders were after them
 - Jesus could be after them
 - They didn’t know what to do
 - And Thomas wasn’t buying any of it.
 - We left last week with Jesus suddenly appearing to the group once more so that Thomas would finally believe.

Now we pick up where we left off in John 20:30-31

Verses 30 & 31 seem out of place to me.

- We move from Thomas to these words

John 20:30-31

³⁰The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

Two Things:

- John takes a moment just before we come to the close of the Gospel according to John, to remind us of some very important things.
 - Jesus performed a tremendous number of miracles.

John 21:25

²⁵Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

- Miracles were never the issue nor were they the cause of salvation.
- The miracles that Jesus did were a validation of His position as God the Son and His message.

- During His ministry He practically cured Jerusalem of all illnesses, and we know that He raised at least three people from the dead.
 - Not to mention His own resurrection from the dead.
- If we were to compare all the miracles between the four gospels, we would find over 40 different miracles recorded. (only 40)
 - We can imagine Jesus on a busy day of healing people accomplishing that number very quickly.
 - **What's John's point?**
 - The miracles mentioned in the gospel of John were chosen to help us trust in Jesus as The Messiah.

The miracles recorded put on display Jesus' supernatural power over:

- Death
- Illness
- Nature
- Demons and Satan
 - Creation.
 - Meaning Jesus created food out of a tiny amount of food
 - Water into wine
 - All pointing us to His Lordship and Messiahship

The second thing John pointed us to is His Messiahship.

- I would guess that most people have no idea what messiah means.

- I would also guess that most people do not know what Christ means.
 - They mean the same thing.
 - Messiah is a Hebrew term
 - Christ is a Greek term
 - Both mean anointed and set apart.
 - The Hebrew term literally means to spread liquid. (This is what you do when you anoint someone)

In the Old Testament **Kings, prophets, and priest** were anointed or set apart by God.

- Today we use a term that means the same but there is no “spreading of liquid” involved. (ordained)
 - In the Old Testament and New Testament there were lots of men “set apart” as both had kings, prophets, and priest but only Jesus was ***THE MESSIAH.***
 - **Meaning** only Jesus is The Son of God.
 - **Meaning** that only through Him could we be forgiven and born again.

You may ask, “when was Jesus anointed?”

- I would say at His baptism.
 - For it is at His baptism that we hear the voice of the Father say this is my Son in whom I am well pleased.
 - It is at His baptism that The Holy Spirit descends upon Him as if He is anointing Jesus for His three years of ministry.

- It is the only place in scripture where we see the trinity in the same place.

The Jews knew about the anointing of the Messiah.

- Several hundred years prior to this moment **King David** through the power of the **Holy Spirit** wrote about **Jesus as The Messiah**,
listen to Psalms 2

Psalm 2

¹ Why are the nations so angry?

Why do they waste their time with futile plans?

² The kings of the earth prepare for battle;

the rulers plot together

against the Lord

and against his anointed one.

³ “Let us break their chains,” they cry,

“and free ourselves from slavery to God.”

⁴ But the one who rules in heaven laughs.

The Lord scoffs at them.

⁵ Then in anger He rebukes them,

terrifying them with his fierce fury.

⁶ For the Lord declares, “I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain.”

⁷ The king proclaims the Lord’s decree:

“The Lord said to me, ‘You are My Son.

Today I have become your Father.

⁸ Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance,

the whole earth as your possession.

*⁹ You will break them with an iron rod
and smash them like clay pots.”*

*¹⁰ Now then, you kings, act wisely!
Be warned, you rulers of the earth!*

*¹¹ Serve the Lord with reverent fear,
and rejoice with trembling.*

*¹² Submit to God’s royal Son, or He will become angry,
and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities—
for His anger flares up in an instant.*

But what joy for all who take refuge in Him!

But as you know, they (the Jews) only saw Him as a King and not as the sacrifice for sin. (Isaiah 53) (Psalms 22)

But God’s people see Jesus as The Messiah, the anointed One of God.

- **He is** Our salvation
- **He is** the sustainer of all things good.

The writer of Hebrews who wrote to a Hebrew audience understood the issues of Jesus’ Messiahship.

- He knew there would be questions so, he begins his letter under the power of The Holy Spirit with these words:

Hebrews 1:1-4

1 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ² And now in these final days,

he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. ³ The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. ⁴ This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

So, it is very clear that all the Bible both Old and New Testaments proclaim ***the Lordship and Messiahship of Jesus.***

[Back to John 21](#)

Quick Recap:

- Jesus is alive and He has appeared several times to the disciples.
 - **“Peace be with you”** was a very needed message as His disciples were still very unsure about the future.
 - John said that Jesus **“breathed upon The Holy Spirit”**
 - Luke described it as **Jesus opened their minds** to the scriptures.
 - All of this was accomplished in the 40 days after His resurrection and before the day of Pentecost.
 - Soon they will be filled and sealed, with The Holy Spirit.

- Like them, we have been filled and sealed with the Holy Spirit.
- When we ask and we take the time to open God's Word, He gives us understanding.
 - It is like Jesus is breathing the Holy Spirit into us as we ponder His words.
 - This was a great moment for them but like all great moments it came to an end, **and they were left with a lot of questions and time.**

We pick up where we left off in John 21.

John 21:1-14

21 Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. **2** Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

3 Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.”

“We’ll come, too,” they all said. So, they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

- It is important to remember that this is not fishing with a pole and bait but rather this is floating in a boat **all night** hoping something will swim into your net.
 - It takes patience and a strong back.
 - I’m out!

- I don't like to fish but and I don't want to stay up all night.

It is also important to remember that Jesus had given them instructions to go to Galilee and wait for Him.

- Waiting can be very tough.
 - And I can't think of anyone in the Bible who has less patience than Peter.
 - And we are not sure how long it has been since they last saw Jesus, so Peter decides that he has had enough.
 - Some scholars say that in the Greek this is an emphatic "I'm done with this!" meaning that he is going to return to what he used to do.
 - The problem is that Jesus had called him and the others to be **fishers of men**.
 - I see myself in them.
 - Impatient
 - Returning when I should be waiting.
 - Frustrated

Back to John

⁴ At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was.⁵ He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?"
"No," they replied.

⁶Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!”

- The level of **frustration** I would be experiencing would be huge.
 - Up all night and nothing to show for it but a bunch of wet and smelly friends.
 - Then some yahoo on the beach shouts, you’re doing it wrong!
 - Throw the net over the other side of the boat!
 - *I bet Thomas had something to say at this point.*

These guys are desperate, so they do what the yahoo says and what do you know!

So, they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

- **Get out of town!**
 - This never happens (but it has happened)

⁷Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!”

- Jesus had done this before,
 - and they remembered the 1st time He called them to be fishers of men.
- Perhaps it was a soft way of reminding them that they had been set apart for ministry.
 - Maybe its just Jesus being Jesus.
 - John got it 1st, and Peter being Peter does the unexpected.

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore.

- How many people do you know that get dressed to get into the water?
- ***Peter's heart would not allow him to stay in the boat.***
 - He knew what he had done.
 - He had walked away from the Lord again!
 - Not only that but ***he had led the others astray!***
 - I love this about Peter, when he makes a mistake, he doesn't run from Jesus
 - ***He runs to Jesus.***

⁸The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore.

- “We got it Peter, you go ahead!”
 - At this point I am sure they are worn out.
 - There were seven guys in that boat on that morning
 - I assume the other 4 had decided to wait on Jesus like they were told.
 - But Peter and the other 6 had went back to fishing.
 - It is interesting to me that these guys (except for Thomas) were the 1st 6 disciples called by Jesus.
 - All fishermen from Galilee.
 - So, six of the seven stay in the boat because of the huge number of large fish.

We continue with verse 9

⁹When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

- Wow, what a great moment.
 - Jesus had showed up and turned a miserable night into a fantastic moment.

- Jesus can do that you know!
 - He can take the failure of night and turn it into the success of the glorious morning.

¹⁰ “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus said. ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn.

- ***Peter is a live wire isn’t he.***
- I tend to overcook when I cook but I doubt they need all 153 fish.
- Peter is excited and if the Lord needs fish, fish He shall have!

(side note)

- If you tend to think that the Apostles, we weaklings you need to think again.
 - Peter just dragged 153 fish to the shore.
 - If each fish weighs 2 pounds that’s 356 pounds but John says that these were large fish so who knows how much it weighs.
 - My point is that Peter is a stud.

Another thing that I want to bring to your attention is the sovereignty of God in this moment for us as SALT Church.

- God does so many things that often go unnoticed.
 - This place that we currently worship in has not always been a church.
 - When it was originally constructed it was a music venue.
 - It was a place for Christian artist to come and play on the weekends.
 - The name of that place was “***Net 153***”

- God has been so good to us.
 - He had this place prepared for us 5 years prior to us needing it.
 - Not only that but He worked in the heart of the original owners without us even mentioning it,
 - ***and they gave us all our sound equipment.***
 - ***God is so amazing!***

Back to John where Peter has just dragged 153 large fish a shore.

¹² “Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord.

- That seems odd to me.
 - It insinuates that Jesus does not look exactly the same.
 - This tells us that we will not look the same in our resurrection bodies but there will be enough of us in us that others will know that it is us.
 - We must remember that these bodies are flawed with sin, our resurrection bodies will not be flawed.
 - The perfect version of our bodies will be much better

¹³ Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish.

Couple of things:

- Jesus had done this before
 - He had taken the 2 fish and 5 loaves and fed thousands
 - If you remember they collected 12 baskets of leftovers in the end
 - One for each of them as a reminder that He would supply all their needs

- Does it not blow your mind that the creator of all things, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords served a bunch of smelly fishermen.
 - I love the way He loves.
 - Not to mention that the only reason this breakfast is happening on a beach on the Sea of Galilee is because there were not where they were supposed to be!
 - Jesus will cut them some slack and **we should too.**
 - How many times in our lives have gone back to our old ways **only to have Jesus come and get us (again).**

¹⁴ This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.

- 90-year-old John recalls it like it was yesterday.
- I bet John was longing to be with them.
 - All of them were in Heaven and like Hebrews 11 says they were cheering him on as that great cloud of witnesses.
 - Think about it for just a moment:
 - It had been roughly 60 years since Jesus had ascended to Heaven
 - Most of the Apostles had been in Heaven for over 40 years.
 - Perhaps this is why the Gospel of John is my favorite book in the Bible.
 - John through the power of the Holy Spirit is writing to us the most important things that He can think of and in this moment, he reminds us:

John 20:30-31

³⁰ The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

Closing:

What have we learned today?

- **Blessing is only found in obedience to the Lord**
 - The 7 disciples were not where they were supposed to be
 - They had gone back to their old ways because God was not moving fast enough
 - They had no success going back to their old ways
 - This should be a comfort in a weird sort of way
 - No success in rebellion means that you belong to Him
- **Patience in the Lord may be the toughest lesson to learn**
- **When you finally come to your senses, repent and do what He says and suddenly you will have success.**
 - “For we know that when we ask for anything in His name that is according to His will we will have it”
- Finally, the last and maybe the most important thing:
 - **Jesus is ready and willing to forgive and restore but...**
 - **Restoration comes on His terms**
 - Confession

- Repentance
- Forgiveness

God is so good!!!!