

John 21

Breakfast by the Sea

I. Breakfast by the Sea: Best Meal of the Day

1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias...

- **After these things:** gr. *Meta Tauta*: John uses words to outline Revelation
- After what things: After Jesus shows Himself alive...
 1. First to Mary Magdalene
 2. Then to other ladies
 3. Next Jesus meets privately with only Peter...
 - Peter is first person mentioned in Paul's list of witnesses [1 Cor 15]
 - **Peter is first of the apostles to see the risen Christ.**

1 Corinthians 15:4 [Jesus] rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and...He was seen by Cephas [**Peter**], **then by the twelve.**

Luke 24:34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has **appeared to Simon!**"

- **Then the Resurrected Jesus appeared to...**
 4. Two Disciples on Road to Damascus [see Luke]
 5. Apostles when Thomas absent [Pity party]
 6. All Apostles
 7. Seven disciples at Sea of Galilee [Tiberias in our text]
 8. **Apostles on Mountain at Galilee:** Great Commission by resurrected Jesus

Matthew 28:16 [Read] Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, **to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.** [Back to where it all began!] 17 When they saw Him, **they worshiped Him**; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

- **Then Resurrected Jesus appeared to...**

9. Over 500 People
10. Half-brother James
11. Saul who became Paul

Many witnesses to the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead
We are all witnesses that Jesus has risen from the dead

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has **shone in our hearts to give the light** of the knowledge of the glory of God **in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Everyone knows Jesus is alive. Now what?

- **Here:** Jesus shows Himself to disciples at Sea of Tiberius in Galilee

1b... and in this way [Jesus] showed Himself: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

Peter says "I'm going fishing"?

- **Wrong to go fishing?** Probably not...
 1. They were not sure what to do next. Jesus is risen but not with them.

"The fishing expedition plainly reveals the uncertainty of the disciples, an uncertainty which contrasts sharply with their assured sense of purpose from the day of Pentecost on." [Morris]

2. Wrong? Still needed income
3. They went to Galilee *because Jesus told them to go to the sea of Galilee...*

Matthew 28:10 [Resurrected Jesus to disciples] "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and **there they will see Me.**

Peter says "I'm going fishing"?

Seven fishermen get into boat fish all night and catch nothing

4 But when the morning had now come, **Jesus stood on the shore**; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus said to them, "**Children, have you any food?**" They answered Him, "**No.**"

- **Boys in boat:** Frustrated
- **Jesus standing on shore adds to frustration:** "Catch anything?"

Romans 8:20 [Read]...the creation was **subjected to futility** [frustration/curse/everything almost/seeing but not touching], not willingly, but because of [God] who subjected it **in hope... 28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

God allows the frustration of our human efforts to drive us to Him
He uses all our trials and tribulations to conform us to Jesus

- Jesus not yet recognized: Catch anything?

6 And [Jesus] said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. 7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "**It is the Lord!**"

- After multitude of fish they know it is Jesus...

Luke 5:3 [Read] [Jesus] got into one of the boats, which was Simon's [Peter's], and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. 4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "**Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.**" 5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have **toiled all night** and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." 6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "**Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!**"

- **Peter blessed/convicted:** Reminded of God's goodness in contrast w/his sinfulness
- **Jesus is working on Peter to a good end**

After another multitude of fish **John realizes..." It is the Lord!"**

7b... Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

- First miraculous catch: Peter wanted to get away from Jesus
- This time Peter dives in head first to get to Jesus...

Wanted to beat John and be the first to Jesus this time

8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), **dragging the net with fish.**

- Other six disciples follow Peter to shore in boat dragging fish

9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they **saw a fire of coals** there, and **fish laid on it, and bread.** **10** Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

Jesus already had what they were fishing for and more
If they had sought Jesus first...they wouldn't have wasted their time

11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

Peter seeking to impress the Lord. Impress his friends.
Make up for that embarrassing denying incident

- **153 fish** in net represents [for sure] 153 fish in net
- Too many fish to drag into the boat

...but Popeye Peter drags 300 lb. net of fish to Jesus...who already had it handled

- We drag our "good works" to Jesus who already has it handled

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are **like filthy rags**; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. 7 And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities.

- **It is finished:** Our “good works” count as less than nothing toward Salvation

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, these I have **counted loss** for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **count them as rubbish**, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness**, which is from the law, but that which is **through faith in Christ**, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may **know Him and the power of His resurrection**

- **Peter: Trying to “make up” for denying Jesus.**
 1. Groveling/Penance
 2. Asking for forgiveness for same thing again and again
 3. Getting angry with ourselves for not being better
 4. Refusing to believe that we as sinners would actually...sin
 5. Trying makeup for past; attempting impress Lord w/how good we really are

Like Peter dragging bag of rubbish to the Lord who already had it handled

12 Jesus said to them, **“Come and eat breakfast.”**

Genesis to Revelation: Fellowship with God. Period **Guys...Come and eat breakfast**

- What if Jesus said to you...?
 1. I love you.
 2. I like you.
 3. I like your face, your body, your humor, your quirks
 4. I’m enthralled w/you are as individual.
 5. I get a kick just hanging out with you.

He did say that. You are the joy set before Him. Reason He endured cross. [Heb.12]

- **NOTE:** Jesus continuing to serve even after resurrection

Luke 12:37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and **will come and serve them.**

Isaiah 25:6 And in this mountain [during Millennial Kingdom] The Lord of hosts will make for all people A feast of choice pieces, A feast of wines on the lees, Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees.

Come eat breakfast. Peter, drop that bag of **“trying harder”** and just

get closer
...**Sit down rest and eat. I got this!**

12b... Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

Luke 24:30 [Post-resurrection] Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 **Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him**

- When they saw His hands...they knew it was Him

**We ought not to attempt to place our filthy rags
...into the wounded hands of the Savior and expect praise** [NJC]

14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

- **Come and eat:** Jesus invites all to come to Him

Spirit invites all to come and we are to invite all to come. All.

Revelation 22:17 ...the Spirit and the bride say, "**Come!**" And let him who hears say, "**Come!**" And let him who thirsts **come. Whoever desires,** let him take the water of life freely.

- **Jesus:** No other way to find rest, true nourishment, forgiveness and Salvation

SUMMARY Breakfast by the Sea

II. Jesus Restores Peter

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, **do you love Me more than these?**"

- **Why ask this question?**

Mark 14:27 [Last supper: Just a few days before this breakfast by the sea...] Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night... 29 Peter said to Him, "**Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.**" 30 Jesus said to [Peter], "Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." 31 But [Peter] spoke more vehemently, "**If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!**" And they all said likewise.

- Peter and Jesus already had private conversation...still a distance

Peter now warming himself by the fire... as He did when he denied Jesus...he is sad
Simon...Do you still say you love Me more that these?

15b... [Peter] said to Him, "Yes, Lord; **You know that I love You.**"

- **Simon:** Peter's name before Jesus named Peter; i.e. **the Rock.**

- Do you love Me more than these?

**“I love you” Glaring omission; “...more than these”.
Jesus already knew the answer**

- **God asks questions for our own self-evaluation; e.g.** “Adam, where are you?”
- **Nick...** will that be the right choice? Will that build you up/tear you down?

Simon do you love Me more than these? Yes, Lord you know that I love You

15c... He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

- If you love Me show it by loving others with My Word
- **Implication of the command...**
 1. I’m not done with you Peter
 2. I will not forsake you Peter. I meant what I said. Add your name _____

Now...Stop feeling sorry for yourself and get to work

16 [Jesus] said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

- **Jesus cuts Peter a break:** Does not add “more than these” just do you love Me?
- **Tend my Sheep:** Be a Shepherd to My people

Now...Stop feeling being angry with yourself and get to work

17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.”

- Do you love Me. Peter was grieved. 3 Denials. Three questions...

Lord...please stop. Whatever I answer you already know.
I don’t know if I love you...but I believe I do. **Soul searching...**

“There are [those] among us who have dragged a full net to shore, the great fishes have been many; they have been great and successful workers, but this does not prevent [the need] for the Lord to examine...their hearts [...and ask] them [to] put by their nets for a while and [sit and talk] with Him.” [Spurgeon]

- **Feed/Shepherd My Sheep:** Preach your heart out, Write a couple of books, and...

Stop trying to impress Me and others with your useless “good works”.
Instead let Me impress you and *others though you* with **My** unimaginable good-ness

- 3 Denials, Questions, Commands: Jesus Forgives, Restores, Reinstates Peter

Peter’s plight is the reason Jesus lived, died and resurrected

- One man sinned and separated all men from God
- Jesus came and bridged the gap between sinful man and God **with the cross...**

That we as Peter could be with Him forever and...that He could be with us forever

1 Timothy 1:15 ...This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners

- Jesus came for sinners...not those who believe they are righteous

Mark 5:31 "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Romans 3:10 "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God."

- No one is righteous but all have sinned

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

- Peter recognized his need for a Savior as struggled to answer "Do you love Me"

"Jesus Christ asks each one of us, not for obedience primarily, not for repentance, not for vows, not for conduct, **but for a heart**; and that being given... all the rest will follow." [Maclaren]

**Peter forgiven, restored and commissioned before in front of the other disciples
Things are now going to change dramatically for Peter...**

18 [Jesus to Peter] Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

- You were your own man. Didn't take any guff from anyone

"He will be restrained, no longer the *master of his own movements*." [Morris]

Follow Me: First said to Peter in Mat. 4

- **My Life:** Holy, selfless, giving, loving, forgiving, repaying evil with good
- **My Death:** Stretching out your hands/nailed to a cross as I was [Pete 34 yrs. later]

"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.'"

- **My Resurrection...**

1 Peter 1:3 [Look forward to...] living hope through resurrection of Jesus Christ from dead

- Peter would die for Jesus as He desired to do...

"If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"

- By the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost he would die and not deny
- Peter's boldness would pave the way to his execution by crucifixion

Follow Me! Peter not quite ready to say yes...

20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" 21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, **"But Lord, what about this man?"**

- Peter turning around/John listening in? **What about John?**

22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain **till I come**, what is that to you? You follow Me."

What if I choose to keep John alive till I come back? How does that change what I told you?

- Don't get distracted Peter...look at Me or you'll start to sink. Remember Peter?
 1. Boys out at sea in boat without Jesus
 2. Jesus comes near in storm walking on water
 3. Think it's a ghost. "It is I don't be afraid"

Matthew 14:28 [Read] ...Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You **on the water.**" 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But **when he saw that the wind** was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out **His hand and caught him**, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, **"Truly You are the Son of God."**

- Peter walking on water without a care in world
- Took eyes off Jesus and began to sink when Jesus stoops down and lifts him up

Walked back on the water to the boat. Just keep your eyes on Me. I got this.

Hebrews 12:2 [We keep our eyes on...] Jesus, the author and **finisher of our faith**

Philippians 1:6 [I'm] ...confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ

To Peter: **You...follow Me**

23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"

- Gossiping about John living forever...

24 This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. 25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

- **This is John:**

1. Disciple whom Jesus loves
2. One who leaned on Jesus breast heard heartbeat of Creator of Universes
3. One who testifies of Jesus/who wrote this Gospel but there is much more...

The world itself could not contain all that could be written about the works of Jesus?

- What He did in a three-year ministry? No.
- Jesus works from Eternity past to Eternity future. Creator of all things. Savior of man

Jesus is God who set the universe in motion and condescended to becoming a man and died for our sins thus saving our souls from hell...to be with Him forever

1. Mountains and Sea
2. Fish and Fowl
3. Babies smile
4. Stars, Moons and Suns

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...**14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 20:31 ...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 6:28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, **that you believe in Him whom He sent.**"