

John 21 – 20 September 2026

“Restore To The Core”

Introduction

*Jesus has risen from the dead and has been appearing to His disciples both male & female for > 1 week

*Jesus has rewarded the faithful women

*He has enlightened doubting Thomas

*He has relieved the disciples

*Today, to finish John’s account, Jesus restores a repentant Peter

*We can get so far off the path of way God wants for our life – much can distract us or tempt us away

*What does it look like to be restored?

*What should a restored disciple of Christ do?

Today we look at 3 activities that God will lead a restored believer into

#1 – Repeating the lessons for the repentant (21:1-14)

Read 21:1-3 [Jesus appears at the Sea of Galilee]

1. Some wonder if this is appropriate for them to do while waiting for more info from Jesus
 - a. Jesus told everyone, in general, to “occupy until I come”
 - b. Jesus told the disciples, specifically, to go to Galilee and that’s what they did
2. It’s good to see believing Thomas staying close to the rest of the disciples since his restoration

Read 21:4-8

1. Peter recognized this situation b/c this happened 3 years earlier as recorded in Luke 5
2. We know Peter was longing for restoration b/c as soon as He knew it was Jesus he left the *blessing* & headed to the *Blessor*

Read 21:9-11

1. Hearing ‘bring the fish’ would remind Peter of the 1st time this happened

2. Peter's reaction to the 1st catch was to say,
“depart from me, I'm a sinful man”
 - a. But Jesus said I'll make you a fisher of men
 - b. Peter's remembering that God can always multiply fish, but He want to multiply men
3. There's another difference in this 2nd catch
 - a. The 1st time the *net broke* under the weight; this time the *net holds*
 - b. The 1st time the *net broke* b/c *Peter wasn't broken* yet and was realizing his need
 - c. This 2nd time the *net holds* b/c *Peter was broken*
4. God works thru broken people that realize their hands are empty in order that God may fill them

Read 21:12-14

1. The intention of Jesus is always to draw us near, not to push us away
2. How good it is for them to see and know that Jesus wants to be near them

#2 – Hammering simplicity for the humble (21:15-19)

Read 21:15

1. Question Jesus asks is, “do you agape Me?”
 - a. Peter responds that he phileos Him
 - b. This is a repentant man that no longer has an overinflated sense of himself (humbler)
2. Jesus asks how Peter’s love compares to *these*
 - a. What are *these*? (disciples? fish?)
 - b. Jesus wants our love for Him to be greater when compared to all else (Read Matt 10:37)

Read 21:16

1. Now this 2nd time Jesus asks if Peter agape’s Him & Peter responds that he phileos Him
 - a. This humility wasn’t disqualifying; it showed that he’s becoming ready to serve
2. It was always God mission for Peter to ‘catch men’ and not just fish (from Luke 5)

Read 21:17

1. This 3rd time Jesus asks a different question, “Oh so you phileo Me?”
 - a. Right as Peter thinks he’s now disqualified, Jesus again says, “Shepherd My sheep”
2. Must have startled him to realize he wasn’t disqualified - You mean You can still use me!?!?
3. Peter needs this sense of brokenness & yet how God uses broken men for what Jesus says next

Read 21:18-19

1. Peter is now broken...ready to be used
 - a. Peter will now use his position to encourage future elders & pastors to “shepherd the sheep of God that’s among them” (I Pet 5:2)
2. As tradition has it, Peter would serve our Lord until he was taken to his own crucifixion in Rome
 - a. Not wanting to be equal with Jesus, he asked for it to be upside down

#3 – Devotion to Jesus for the disciple (21:20-25)

Read 21:20-22

1. Don't get distracted w/ other's mission or call
 - a. Know deeply what ***you're*** called to do
2. What if that ***other*** person succeeds greatly or collapses completely – will that change what God has for you? No!

Read 21:23

1. Don't get distracted w/ rumors
 - a. See, it was “the brothers” that started this
 - b. Sometimes even good intentions are wrong
2. Pay attention to what Jesus actually said, don't twist it b/c it's more sensational to twist it

Read 21:24

1. John was an eyewitness of these things and they're trustworthy
2. The truth is never afraid to be tested & checked

Read 21:25

1. There's way more to Jesus than we have recorded

- a. Things we ***do have*** recorded are sufficient enough to believe in Jesus (John 20:30-31)
- b. Things we ***do have*** recorded are sufficient for life & to know godly living (II Pet 1:3)
2. We will spend eternity getting to know more about our infinite God Jesus Christ (John 17:3)

Conclusion

Whether you're the one being restored or you're guiding some else in restoration – keep it simple

1. **Repeat the lessons Jesus already taught us**
2. **Hammer home the simple mission**
3. **Devote yourself to Christ Himself**

The simplicity of living as a disciple of Christ's is to ask, "will this action please my Heavenly Father"

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matt 22:37