

## That You May Have Life In His Name

Pastor Matt Dean

John 21

December 17, 2023

### Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

<sup>21</sup> After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. <sup>8</sup> The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

- These were fishermen who were NOT catching fish. And as this story unfolds – it's a clear reminder that even if we know how to do something, we really can't always rely on our own strength. They did NOT catch fish until Jesus redirected them to the other side of the boat.
- A charcoal fire appears two times in John's Gospel — the first time is when Peter denies him three times, all by being warmed near a charcoal fire. This time – the same smell, the same warmth would be where Jesus would restore Peter.

- I stood on this same beach – one of the most powerful moments of my time in Israel... Considering my own failures and how the mercy of Jesus has covered me.
- When you think of your life — where are the moments when your strength was not enough?
- When have your best efforts still been insufficient?
- As you take inventory of your life — does the weight of God’s mercy settle on you?

### Jesus and Peter

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, 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 everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” <sup>19</sup> (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

On the night of Jesus’ betrayal – Peter indeed denies Jesus three times. :

Do you know Jesus? I do not.

Do you know Jesus? I do not.

Do you know Jesus? I do not.

On this day on a beach, after breakfast cooked on charcoal – Peter is restored.

- **Do you love me more than these?”** He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”
- <sup>16</sup> He said to him a second time, **“Simon, son of John, do you love me?”** He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”
- <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, **“Simon, son of John, 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 everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.
- “There is more mercy in Christ than sin in us” Richard Sibbes

- Not only do we see Jesus restore Peter – but he commissions Peter with a weight of responsibility: Feed by lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep.

### Jesus — He is the Good Shepherd.

- <sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. (Jn 10:7–15)
- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23).

### Peter knows Jesus — and knows Him to be the Good Shepherd.

- <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Pe 2:24–25)
- Do you believe God’s mercy can cover your sin?
  - <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—. (Eph 2:4–5)

- By grace through faith in Jesus – do you know indeed that you ARE forgiven.
  - <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.  
(Eph 2:8–10).

### Jesus and the Beloved Apostle

<sup>20</sup> Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” <sup>21</sup> When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about this man?”

- Peter – perhaps not initially thrilled to hear that Jesus knew how Peter was eventually going to suffer in death was tempted to compare himself with John who had not denied Jesus.

<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!” <sup>23</sup> So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”

- When you are tempted to compare your life with someone else — hear the simplicity of these words: You follow me.
- Life in a broken world does mean people — even those who trust in Jesus experience life differently:
  - Wealth and poverty
  - Sadness and sickness
  - Suffering and comfort
  - Whatever the differences may be in terms of what you have or don’t have, experience or don’t experience – the invitation of Jesus stands for us all: YOU FOLLOW ME.

<sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

- We read those words — this testimony is true. I'm reminded that in a broken world that denies truth or deconstructs truth or simply dismisses truth... The ongoing battle to believe — that indeed God IS Good.

<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. (Ps 103:10-13)

<sup>25</sup> Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

(Jn 21:1-25)

What does it mean to have life in His name?

To know Him. To Live in Him. To walk with His Spirit.