



Silverdale Baptist

THE INVITATION • COME AND DINE • JOHN 21:1-17 • 8/15-16/2020

MAIN POINT

Jesus restores failures.

INTRODUCTION

Please share with us a time you felt like a failure.

How do you recover from failure?

Peter failed, more than once. Yet, Jesus reached out and invited Peter to come and dine, to come and be restored. Failure doesn't have to be the end! Failure is an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus and watch Him do amazing things.

UNDERSTANDING

To understand the context of John 21, we need to look first what happened the night Jesus was arrested.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 26:30-35.

In these verses, Jesus and the disciples had just finished the last supper, and they were walking to the Mount of Olives.

What did Jesus say was about to happen?

Where did Jesus promise to meet them after His resurrection from the dead?

How did Peter respond to Jesus' words?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 22:54-62.

Jesus had been arrested and taken to the home of the high priest. When he was arrested, most of the disciples ran away. Peter followed the crowd from a distance to see what would happen.

What happens in the courtyard?

How many times did Peter deny Christ?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 21:1-14.

The Sea of Tiberias is another name for the Sea of Galilee.

What happens in this story?

How did Jesus reveal Himself to the disciples?

How did Peter respond?

Describe the scene once they reach the shore.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 21:15-17.

What did Jesus ask Peter?

How many times?

How many times had Peter denied Jesus?

Peter and the disciples returned to Galilee, as Jesus had told them to. But instead of waiting for Him, they went back to their old trade, fishing. When Jesus appeared on the shore, He pointed out they had not caught any fish all night. In a sense, they were once again failures. When Jesus told them to cast the net on the other side of the boat, and they netted a huge catch, they realized it was Jesus. The same Jesus they had abandoned, sought them out. The same Jesus denied by Peter had cooked breakfast for Peter and the disciples. In a moment, over an invitation to come and dine, Jesus restored the broken relationship with Peter.

APPLICATION

In what ways have you denied Christ?

How have you broken your relationship with Him?

What stands in the way of you having a restored relationship with Jesus? Accept His invitation to come and dine. He is waiting for you.

Our world is broken enough; let's be a part of the restoration process. How can we accept the invitation and invite others to come and dine?

PRAYER

Father, teach us to embrace Your forgiveness and love. Please help us find ways to invite others to come and dine.

COMMENTARY

21:1–25 This epilogue narrates Jesus’s third and final resurrection appearance recorded in this Gospel and contrasts the callings of Peter and “the disciple Jesus loved.”

21:1 With the weeklong Festival of Unleavened Bread now past, the disciples left Jerusalem and returned to Galilee (see note at 20:26; cp. Lk 2:43). On the Sea of Tiberias, see note at 6:1.

21:2 The names of Zebedee’s sons are given in the Synoptic Gospels as James and John (Mt 4:21). Luke mentions that they were “Simon’s partners” (Lk 5:10) in the fishing business before they were called to follow Jesus as disciples (see note at Jn 1:40).

21:3 Night was the preferred time for fishing in ancient times (Lk 5:5). This schedule allowed fish caught at night to be sold fresh in the morning market.

21:4–6 The disciples’ failure to recognize Jesus may have been supernatural (Lk 24:16, 37).

21:7–8 The disciple ... Jesus loved must be one of the seven mentioned in v. 2, which included Zebedee’s sons, and was almost certainly John the son of Zebedee, author of this Gospel (see note at v. 24).

21:9 On the charcoal fire, see note at 18:18.

21:10–11 Various attempts have been made to interpret the number 153 symbolically, but most likely it simply represents the actual number of fish. Large numbers elsewhere in John are meant literally as well (2:6; 12:3).

21:12–13 By taking the bread and fish and giving them to his disciples, Jesus acted as a Jewish host pronouncing the blessing at a meal (6:11, 23).

21:14 This verse forms an inclusio with 21:1 and marks off 21:1–14 as a unit.

21:15 On Simon, son of John, see note at 1:42. Jesus’s question do you love me more than these? probably meant, “Do you love me more than these disciples do?” rather than, “Do you love me more than these fish [i.e., his profession]?” or “Do you love me more than you love these men?” though each of the three meanings is possible.

21:15–17 Peter had denied Jesus three times (18:15–18, 25–27); now Jesus asked him three times to reaffirm his love for him before recommissioning him for gospel service.[1]

[1] Ed Stetzer, “The Missional Church,” in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1710.