



“FOLLOW HIS LOVE!”

John Chapter 21

~ Four Observations:

- > **Observation #1 – THE FUTILITY OF THE FLESH! (v1-5)**
- > **Observation #2 – THE FAITHFULNESS OF CHRIST! (v6-14)**
- > **Observation #3 – BE FRUITFUL FOR CHRIST! (v15-17)**
- > **Observation #4 – LET US FOLLOW CHRIST FOREVER! (v18-25)**

> **Observation #1 – THE FUTILITY OF THE FLESH! (v1-5)**

- Here we find seven of the disciples at the Sea of Galilee going fishin’ and catchin’ nothin’!

- Dear Christian, we must never forget what Jesus said in - John 15:5-8 - *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”*

- Jesus told His disciples that He would meet them in Galilee (Matt. 26:32; 28:7-10; Mk. 16:7).

- In verse 5 Jesus literally says, *“Boys, you have not had any catch, have you?”* Let’s go back to the future, it’s déjà vu’ all over again! (Luke 5:1-11, how quickly one forgets!)

> **Observation #2 – THE FAITHFULNESS OF CHRIST! (v6-14)**

(v6) At Christ COMMAND and our OBEDIENCE there is ABUNDANCE!

(v7) John proclaims, *“It is the Lord!”* May this be our PROCLAMATION and ADORATION!

(v8-14) Enjoy the details:

(1) Here we see Jesus’ invitation for an incredible breakfast! He gave similar invitations to dine with Him at the feeding of the 5000 men, plus women and children (Matthew Ch. 14), and the 4000 men, plus women and children (Matthew Ch. 15).

Jesus gives an invitation to the false church of the last days (Laodicea - Rev. 3:14-21), he says in Revelation 3:19-21 - *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

(2) the catch was full of LARGE FISH (totally 153);

(3) (v12-14) **Three separate times in The Gospel According to John Jesus gives an INVITATION:**

1st – John 1:39 – **“Come and see” - GOD INCARNATE!** - John 1:38-42 - *Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.*

2nd – John 7:37 – **“Come and drink” - Of the HOLY SPIRIT!** - John 7:37-39 - *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

John 4:13-14 - *Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

3rd – John 21:12 – **“Come and eat”**- The ultimate meal is found in Revelation 19:9 - *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" (cp. - Luke 14:15-16 Luke 16:22 Luke 22:16 Matt 22:2));*
Have you given your R.S.V.P.? YES, YES, & YES!

> **Observation #3 – BE FRUITFUL FOR CHRIST! (v15-17)**

- **In verses 15-17 Jesus challenges Peter in three areas of his life and I believe he challenges us also:**

#1 - Do you really love Jesus?

#2 - Do you see yourself equal with all believers?

#3 - Do you really love His people?

~ Let's observe what Jesus said to Peter:

(v15) *"Do you love (agapas) Me more than these?"*

Peter's answer *"Yes, Lord; You know that I love (philo) You."*

Jesus said, *"Feed My lambs."*

- The Greek word Jesus expressed for love was agapao, which is a divine love, it means to love deeply, sacrificially. Peter responded with a different Greek word for love, which comes from phileo, meaning to be fond of, a love of a lesser degree.

(v16) The same words are expressed in the second question.

(v17) Jesus meets Peter where he's at and says, *"Do you love (philo) Me?"* Jesus will meet us at our shortcoming; then teaches us to grow in love and faith!

- We also see that Jesus told Peter to *"Feed My lambs"* – To *"feed"* is to make a disciple through the Word of God, whereas *"lambs"* are newborn believers as well as God's precious children.

As believers grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we are to *feed* and *tend* to the needs of Christ's precious flock. In verse 17 we read *"Feed My sheep"*; it's literally *"Feed My dear sheep"*. Every lamb is dear and precious to Christ.

- In Hebrews 13:20-21 we read, Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Peter declares in 1 Peter 5:1-4 - The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

> Observation #4 – LET US FOLLOW CHRIST FOREVER! (v18-25)

(v18-19) Jesus speaks of Peter's future martyrdom at the hands of the Romans. Tertullian and later writers give testimony of the crucifixion of Peter at Rome. Origen further stated that he was crucified with his head downwards at his own request.

- Jesus emphatically tells Peter to *"Follow Me"*, which is literally *"Keep on following Me."*

~ Peter's life story can be summarized as from:

- Fishing fiasco! - Luke 5:8 – Tells Jesus, “*Depart from me I am a sinful man!*”
(Needs a Savior!)

- To Wiiiiipe out! - Matthew 14:30 – Peter cried out “*Lord save me!*” Jesus, “*O you of little faith, why did you doubt?*” (Needs more faith!)

- To Scaredy cat! – John Ch. 18 – Peter denies the Lord three times! (Needs power / courage!)

~ After Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit his life was radically changed:

- From a sinful man to a SOUL-WINNER! A FISHER OF MEN!!!

- Acts Ch. 2 (3000 saved at Pentecost!)

- Acts Ch. 3 – 4 (5000 saved!)

- From little faith to WALKING FAITH! – Acts Ch. 3 (the lame man healed at the gate called “*Beautiful*”) – Paul writes in Romans 10:15 - *How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace. Who bring glad tidings of good things!*

- From denier to DELIVERER! – Acts 10:34-48; Ch. 11 (For the gentiles!)
How about you and me?

(v20-25) Jesus admonishes Peter to mind his own business and “*FOLLOW ME!*”

- John brings us to a grand finale in verse 25 regarding the miraculous and incredible life of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah, our Lord and Savior!

Let's GO4GOD!