

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
To Follow Jesus
John 21
Week 35 September 20, 2026
Pastor Mike Popovich

It is two weeks since the resurrection of Jesus.

JESUS BY THE SEA

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.

John 21:3 ESV

They do not really know what is next. Jesus said He is sending them out.

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. John 21:6 ESV

Does this remind you of another time when they were fishing in Luke 5?

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." 11 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. 12 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. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. 14 This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. John 21:10-13 ESV

Now they are in Galilee at the lake and He is here, cooking breakfast. If you were there what would you say? What would you ask Him?

DO YOU LOVE ME

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." 16 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." 17 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." John 21:15-17 ESV

Peter denied Him three times so Jesus is asking him three times.

If you made decisions to ignore God and do life your way, and then repented and returned to walk with Jesus, has He forgiven you? Have you forgiven yourself?

If you have confessed and been forgiven there is no more shame or guilt.

PETER'S FUTURE

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." 19 (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."

John 21:18-19 ESV

Tradition does have Peter requesting to be crucified upside down thinking he was not worthy to be crucified like Jesus.

LOVE JOHN

Here is John closing out his writing.

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. 25 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.

John 21:24-25 ESV

THE GREAT COMMISSION

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:8 ESV

Believe in Jesus.

Follow Jesus.