

John 21 Do You Love Me?

REVIEW: Our story is all but complete now...

Jesus (The Word made flesh) has come & lived among us.

“In the beginning the Word already existed. He was **with God**, and **HE WAS GOD.**” ... “So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen **his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father.**” John 1:1 & 14, NLT. ...

- The Christ, God’s promised Messiah has come...
- We learned along our journey that Jesus was not just “The **Son of God**” but “**God the Son**” “20:28”

We’ve seen and embraced of His **teachings**, His **miracles**, His **character**, His **free gift of salvation**...

We witnessed **His death, burial and resurrection**...

In **chapter 20** not only did we witness **His resurrection** but also His “**POST RESURRECTION appearances**” ... Mary, the Apostles & finally Thomas.

Chapter 20 ended with a powerful conclusion...

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; **but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**” John 20:30, 31, NKJV.

You would expect John to end his gospel account in Chapter 20... But there is more...

In the book of Acts we will learn that Jesus actually appeared to many believers over a period of 40 days.

“...to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” Acts 1:3, NKJV.

- If John had not recorded this last chapter we would not know how Jesus dealt with Peter after his miserable failure and denial of his Lord...
- It is also very possible that John wrote this last chapter to demonstrate to us how to have a relationship with a risen Savior...
- I believe John also wrote this last chapter to clear up a rumor caused by a misunderstanding of something Jesus said about him... (V:22-23)

During the forty days between His resurrection and ascension, Jesus appeared and disappeared at will, visiting with the disciples, preparing them for the coming of the Spirit and their future ministries.

They never knew when He would appear, so they had to stay alert! ... **SO IT IS with us TODAY.**

- 1.) We need to **live in the Spirit** and remain always **receptive to His voice and guidance...**
- 2.) We need to be sensitive to **His presence** always...
- 3.) We need to be **ever watchful** and **ready for His return.**

V:1-4 Why Galilee?

1.) That's where the disciples originally lived... after the Passover feast in Jerusalem they went home...

2.) The Lord had instructed His disciples to meet Him in Galilee. (**Matt 26:32; 28:10; Mark 16:7**)

"Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go *and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me." Matthew 28:10, NKJV.

V:3 "*I am going fishing*" - Some liken this to Peter backsliding... Going back to old ways...

But what else should he be doing? ... (Comments?)

Right or wrong, we see The Lord used this situation to once more teach some important lessons...

- Everything about this scene speaks of defeat...
- A long unproductive effort without Jesus...
- **LESSON: "Without Me you can do nothing"** (15:5). Whether you are a fisherman or a preacher-man, It is better to wait on the Lord for directions, and let Him bless, than to ...

V:4 They didn't know it was Jesus. Why? ...

1.) After His resurrection, sometimes people did not recognize Jesus...(**Luke 24:16; John 20:14**) ...

2.) I think it was simply because it was still dark and they were 100 yards out! (**John 21:8** NASB) ...

V:5 “Children”? (*paidion* Grk) NIV – “Friends”, NLT – “Fellows”, LB – “Boys” ... Cp. “kids”? ...

BTW- What do you normally ask a fisherman? ...

In this culture it would be a normal inquiry from **a person looking to buy breakfast...**

V:6a An outwardly ridiculous piece of advice...

Are you a fisherman? ... Imagine...

But something similar to this
had happened to them once before...

“...He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; **nevertheless at Your word I will** let down the net.” And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.” Luke 5:4-7

V:6 This time nets didn’t break, boats didn’t sink...

V:7 Comment...

Sometimes the Lord gets our attention through patterns of recognition in the way He interacts...

V:8-9 Where did Jesus get the fish & break & fire?

He can do just fine without us. But notice He invites His disciples to partner with him... **V:10** ...

V:11 We see here the empowering of Jesus’ command.

When Christ gives a command, He also gives the ability to obey that command...

Some here make a big deal of the number 153...

All sorts of “numerology” theories...

i.e. the number of types of fish in the sea, therefore representative of all the types of people in the world.

V:12-14 comments... Cp. “grace” at meals... ?

V:15 “*More than these*”?

Some say, “more than you love fishing” ...

Others say, “more than the other disciples love me” ...

I think Jesus is saying, “*Do you love me more than these other disciples love me*”?

Remember Peter’s previous boasts - **Joh 13:37; Mt 26:33; Mr 14:29**

“Peter ... “Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.”
Mark 14:29, NLT.

Jesus was giving Peter a reality check...

“**FEED my lambs**” - The job of every pastor...

“**MY lambs**” = Every pastor’s reality check...

V:16 “**SHEPHERD my sheep**” ...

Different emphasis (**poimaino**) = Take care, tend, watch over and keep them safe...

V:17 Another important exchange going on behind the scene here is the words being used for love here... EXPLAIN... V:15 & 16 = Agape, phileo/ 2X...

V:17 Jesus & Peter used *PHILEO*... (comments)...

The Q isn't "*are you sorry*", it's "Do you love me?" ...

V:18-19 A word play here. EXPLAIN...

"I assure you: When you were young, you would TIE your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will TIE you and carry you where you don't want to go." (John 21:18 HCSB) (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Point: "Follow me no matter the cost" ...

V:20-22 Why wouldn't Jesus correct his misconception? ... Clear things up? ...

Because it doesn't matter...

Cp. Job... God never answered all Job's questions...

THE POINT: Worry about yourself! ...

You are accountable for you... Follow Me! ...

V:23-25...

Bottom line was already stated in 20:31...

"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the

Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:30, 31, NKJV.

Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ?

If so, then know that you have life in His Name...

END