

## John 21:1-23 – By The Sea Of Tiberius

### Introduction (John 20:30-31)

1. The imaginations of the disciples must have been wild – Messianic expectations unrealized, commissioned and empowered by the Spirit to go win converts, Jesus risen from the dead and leaving (**John 20:17,21**)
2. Jesus fulfills the pastoral ministry by meeting specific needs the disciples had
  - a. Confidence and assurance that Jesus would be with them
  - b. Even though they sinned grievously, they were not disqualified from God's Kingdom or God's service
3. Jesus restored them and demonstrates He is in charge of their destinies

**Main Idea:** Jesus is the Shepherd over our souls, empowering us to live a fruitful life, gently correcting and guiding us on the narrow path, and assuring us that every detail of our lives is under His sovereign control and in His caring hands.

### Fruitless Fishing (John 21:1-3)

1. The disciples have gone back to Galilee to wait for the Lord (**Mk 16:7**)
  - a. The Galilean Seven: Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James & John, and probably Andrew and Philip went fishing
  - b. These men were not idle, but did what they knew – sell & eat fish!
  - c. Peter takes the lead and influences the men to go fishing
2. They go fishing – but they are fruitless in their endeavors
  - a. Fishing without Jesus can be fruitless: you can do nothing w/o Him

### It Is The Lord! (John 21:4-8)

1. Jesus in His resurrected body could present Himself as unrecognizable (Ex: Mary Magdalene, Cleopas)
2. The disciples do not recognize Jesus on the sea shore, but it could just be that day was braking and they were 100 yards out to sea
3. Jesus calls to them – “Boys, you haven't caught anything have you?” and tells them to cast the net on the right side
  - a. This scenario parallels the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Luke 5
    - i. The disciples are out all night fishing, caught nothing
    - ii. Jesus on the shore calls for them to cast the net on the other side of the boat – reluctantly they obey
    - iii. They haul in so many fish, the net begins to break
    - iv. The net is not broken in this scenario
  - b. Jesus showcases His Lordship over creation – the fish obey Him and swim into the net (**Nehemiah 9:6, Psalms 95:4-5, 148:7-8**)
4. John is insightful and knows immediately that it is the Lord, and when He says this, Peter impulsively jumps into the sea to get to Christ

### Breakfast On The Beach (John 21:9-14)

1. The Lord has made a charcoal fire (important) and begins to serve them; the Greatest among them has become their Servant

2. Humorous Interpretive Ideas about the 153 Fish that were caught
  - a. The number 10 represents the Law, and number 7 is the number of perfection, added together makes 17, of which the sum total of all the numbers between 1 and 17 equals 153
  - b. The number 10 represents the Law and 7 is the sevenfold fruits of the Spirit; they add to 17 and all the numbers added together = 153
  - c. The sum of the square of the 12 apostles and the 3 members of the Trinity equals 153
  - d. All the Greek letters have numerical value; the numerical value for Simon is 76 & the numerical value for fish is 77, added equals 153
3. 153 fish is a historical detail that eyewitnesses had and did not forget
4. The Lord Jesus reveals Himself for the third time to His disciples, now in a personal and gracious way: communion and fellowship with friends

### Do You Love Me? (John 21:15-19)

1. Jesus turns to Peter, the Rock to restore him
  - a. John mentions a charcoal fire twice in his gospel – once here and the second is with Peter standing with the enemies of God where he denied the Lord three times
2. Jesus addresses the wound in a loving way, meeting Peter's greatest need to heal him – Peter needs reconciliation and restoration
3. Thrice “Do you love Me?”
  - a. *More than these?* Peter had said – Even if these men abandon You, I will never abandon You = Yes! I love you – Feed My lambs...
  - b. Jesus like a surgeon probing to remove the problem – Do you love Me? – More than sentimental emotion, but loyal devotion
    - i. Love and Obedience are inseparable
    - ii. *Agape* – A self-abandoning love, *Phileo* – a brotherly love
    - iii. 2x Jesus asks, Do you *agape* Me? Peter responds w/ *phileo*
  - c. Jesus asks, Do you *Phileo* Me? Peter is grieved – why? Because he recognizes what Jesus is doing – putting the finger on his three denials with three questions concerning his love for Christ
4. Jesus restores Peter into pastoral ministry – to feed, tend, care for the sheep – Peter embraced his role (**1 Peter 5:1-4**)
5. The way you love Jesus is your love for His people
6. Peter followed Jesus to his death, traditionally, crucified upside down

### What About John? (John 21:20-23)

1. Peter has concern for his friend, John – what about him?
2. Jesus showcases His Deity – His sovereign control over the destinies of His disciples – He wills that Peter dies a martyr, and He wills that John live to old age – Death and Life are in Christ's hands
  - a. Jesus has absolute sovereign power over the details of our lives
3. Our responsibility is to believe and follow Christ – (**John 6:29**)

### Application:

1. Pragmatism w/o God is fruitless
2. Love the Lord by loving God's people
3. Restore & Reconcile with the repentant (**Galatians 6:1**)
4. Love & Obey Christ