

“His Mercies are New Every Morning”

John 21

“...Do you truly love Me then...” [John 21:16]

The forgiveness and restoration of Peter (and the other disciples) has massive implications for all disciples as well as for unbelievers who think God won't forgive them for their 'terrible' sins. Not only did Jesus forgive Peter but he restored him to a significant place of leadership. Jesus saw what a humbled, obedient Peter could do for Jesus more than He saw what Peter did against Jesus. At the same time, it was necessary that forgiveness was a result of Peter's repentance. Genuine forgiveness happens when there is genuine repentance. Only then is one ready to be used by God and for God in a mighty way.

The Setting [John 21:1-3]

Where do we find the disciples as we open John 21?

John 21:1 “Afterward, Jesus again appeared to His disciples by the Sea of _____ . . .”

Tiberius was its Roman name, given around 20 AD which would have been more familiar to John's written audience but less so to the disciples themselves at the time. What else was it called?

6:1 “ . . . the Sea of _____ . . .”

Luke 5:1 One day as Jesus was standing by the _____ of _____ . . . “

Why were they in Galilee?

Matt. 28:10 “Then Jesus said to them [*women at the _____*] ‘Go and tell my _____ to go to _____ there they will _____ Me.”

It would seem that Jesus had not appeared yet. So they decide to go fishing. Who decided that?

21:3 _____

How did the others respond to this?

21:3 “We'll _____ you.”

* **Why do you think Peter went back to his livelihood of fishing?**

The Encounter [John 21:4-25]

The disciples fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus appears at the shore (unrecognized) and asks them about their success and then suggests something. What?

21:6 “Throw your net on the _____ side of the boat and you _____ find some.”

They did! And at this point John recognizes it is Jesus and Peter makes a mad dash to shore. Why at this point?

Read **Luke 5:1-11**. This happened once before. How did Peter respond to Jesus?

Luke 5:8 "When Peter saw this, he _____ at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me Lord, I am a _____ man!'"

What did Jesus say to Peter?

Luke 5:10 "Then Jesus said to Simon "Don't be _____ from now on you will catch _____"

Then what happened?

Luke 5:11 "So they pulled their boats up on shore, left _____ and _____ Him."

*** Do you think these two incidents are a coincidence or not?**

Jesus invites them to breakfast and John mentions the "charcoal fire" was used to cook the fish. There is only one other place this phrase is used. Read **18:15-18, 25-27**. Who was there?

What happened at this charcoal fire?

Peter d _____ Jesus _____ times

What time of day was it?

18:28 ". . . By now it was _____"

After breakfast Jesus asks Peter the same question 3 times. What does He ask him? _____

How did Jesus phrase it the first time?

21:15 "Do you love Me _____ than these?"

Why did Jesus ask that? Read **Matt. 26:31-35**

Matt. 26:33 "Even if _____ fall away on account of You, I _____ will."

Matt. 26:35 "But Peter declared, 'Even if I have to _____ with You, I will _____ disown You.' And _____ the other disciples said the same."

At the third time Jesus asks, how does Peter respond?

21:17 ". . . Lord You know things, You know that I _____ You."

What effect do you think Jesus' thrice repeated question had on Peter?

Why do you think Jesus asked this in front of the others?

However, after each question Jesus issued Peter marching orders; also 3 times. What did He ask Peter to do?

21:15-17 "F _____ /t _____ care of My s _____ /l _____"

Who are Jesus' sheep?

10:14-18, 25-30

While it is obvious Peter's task (Acts 2-4, 10) was also preaching the gospel, Jesus reminded Peter of his main task of giving leadership to the group. Note Peter's own use of Jesus' words in 1 Pet. 5.

1 Pet. 5:2 "Be _____ of God's _____ that is under your care . . ."

Jesus forgives Peter's sin and brings him back to the original task for which He called him. Now He has other news for Peter describing how he will be led where he does not want to go. Why did Jesus say this?

21:19 "Jesus said this to indicate the kind of _____ by which Peter would _____ God."

His "last" command to Peter is what?

21:19 "_____ Me"

"Follow Me" is the initial call God gave to Peter and the others. Why do you think Jesus said this again at this point?

It would take the Holy Spirit's coming to change Peter (Acts 2); so what do we see Peter concerned about here?

21:21 "Lord, what about _____?" [Him referring to _____]

Jesus' response to this?

21:22 "If I want him to remain alive until I _____, what is that to _____?"

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