

“His Mercies are New Every Morning”

John 21

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

In our English Bibles Acts 1 follows John 21. This is very fitting as John’s gospel ends with Jesus forgiving and restoring Peter (who repents) and in Acts 1 we see a forgiven Peter taking on the leadership role of the group of disciples – even before the Spirit comes upon them. How did this come about? The forgiveness and restoration of Peter (and the others too) has massive implications for all disciples (as well as for unbelievers) who think God won’t forgive them for their ‘terrible’ sins. 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 the 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 _____ . . . “
[name associated with a large _____ northwest of the Sea]

Josh. 12:3 “and the Arabah to the Sea of _____ [except new NIV] eastward . . .”
[Hebrew word for _____ since Sea of Galilee is in that shape]

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 as we open John 21. Who decides to go fishing?

21:3 _____ [joined by the others]

* **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.”

John recognizes it is Jesus and Peter makes a mad dash to shore. Why here? [Read Luke 5:1-11]

This happened once before. How did Peter respond to Jesus then?

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 _____"

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

The similarities are not a coincidence. *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? _____ he d_____ Jesus _____ times

What time of day was it then? _____ **18:28** " . . . By now it was early _____"

After breakfast Jesus asks Peter the same question 3 times. _____

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."

When Jesus asks the 3rd time, how does Peter respond?

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

Why 3 times and why ask this in front of the others?

However, after each question Jesus gave Peter an order 3 times. What did He ask Peter to do?

21:15-17 "F_____ [or] t_____ care of My s_____ [or] l_____"

Who are Jesus' sheep? _____ **10:14-18, 25-30**

While Peter's task will also involve preaching the gospel (Acts 2-4, 10), Peter never forgot 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. When Jesus ascends to heaven, who takes leadership over the disciples?

Acts 1:15-17

***Why do you think no one objected to Peter's taking the lead?**