

Structure

Context: Peter, a Disloyal Disciple (13:36–38; 18:15–27; Luke 22:61–62)

Jesus Reveals Himself to His Disloyal Disciple, Peter (21:1–14)

- By standing on the shore (vv. 1–4)
- By speaking to Peter (vv. 5–6)
- By showing his power (vv. 7–8)
- By supplying for Peter what Peter cannot supply for himself (vv. 9–14)

Jesus Restores His Disloyal Disciple, Peter (21:15–23)

- By soliciting Peter's threefold confession of love (vv. 15–17)
- By sending Peter to demonstrate that love to the church, after Jesus's pattern (vv. 15–17; 1 Pet 5:1–3)
- By strengthening Peter with the certainty of Peter's future faithfulness (vv. 18–23; 1 Pet 5:4, 10–11)

Jesus Renews Disloyal Disciples' Belief in Him through Scripture's Testimony: Epilogue (21:24–25)

- By sending the Helper to guide the apostles in truthfully testifying to Jesus in Scripture (v. 24; 15:26–27; 16:12–15; Acts 2).
- By securing such a great salvation that no written record could ever contain his glory, but only testify to it (v. 25)

Unifying Theme

The risen Jesus demonstrates such lavish mercy that he again revealed himself to his disciples at the shore, especially to ensure that Peter experiences full restoration in his relationship with Jesus and in his mission to follow Jesus, and continues revealing his redemptive mercy to us through Scripture's trustworthy, apostolic testimony.

Author's Aim

The apostle John aims to show the inexpressible mercy of the risen Christ to nourish and reinstate those disciples who failed him, especially Peter, to correct a false report that had spread regarding his (John's) death, and to underscore to the reader/hearer the truthfulness of his testimony written in this Gospel account.