

The Gospel of John: Light in the Darkness

"It is the Lord!" John 21:1-14

John 20:30-31 So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in His name.

John 21:1-2 After these things Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He revealed Himself in this way: Simon Peter, Thomas who was called Didymus, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

Seven disciples, likely the six disciples of John 1 plus doubting Thomas.

Reasons for this chapter

1. To affirm that Simon Peter was still the go to apostle, despite the denial

Matthew 16:15-16 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:17-18 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Matthew 16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

1. To affirm that Simon Peter was still the go to apostle, despite the denial
2. To resolve any confusion about the second coming of Christ after Peter's death and John's advanced age

John 21:23 Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?"

1. To affirm that Simon Peter was still the go to apostle, despite the denial
2. To resolve any confusion about the second coming of Christ after Peter's death and John's advanced age
3. To affirm the bodily, physical resurrection of Jesus

Notices that all four appearances of Jesus in John include physical aspects “Mary stop clinging to Me.” “Receive the Holy Spirit” and He breathed on them. “Touch my hands and my side.” And now He’s cooking breakfast.

I John 4:1-2 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God

I’m assuming that Peter, John, and the rest of the disciples, had plans. Fishing business and family plans. Then along comes this strange man, eating strange food, and preaching a strange yet hopeful message...

Now that Jesus has risen, what are we supposed to do again? Well, we got to eat and take care of our families. Let’s go fishing. Reasonable decision with no other available instruction.

John 21:3-4 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are also coming with you.” They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing. But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

John 21:5-6 So Jesus said to them, “Children, you do not have any fish to eat, do you?” They answered Him, “No.” And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you will find the fish.” So they cast it, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great quantity of fish.

John 6:12-13 When they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost.” So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

John 15:4-5 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 21:7-8 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about two hundred cubits away, dragging the net full of fish.

“More than he wants our acts of piety, more than he wants our adherence to religion, more than he wants our observance of rules and rituals, more than he wants our words of affection, he wants us to know him and that he knows us.” Kyle Idleman from Not a Fan

John 21:9-10 So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already made and fish placed on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught."

John 21:11-12 So Simon Peter went up and hauled the net to land, full of large fish, 153; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to inquire of Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord.

John 21:13-14 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This was now the third time that Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

1. Jesus Christ rose again from the dead, physically. He appeared bodily, multiple times in multiple places to a diversity of people. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
2. Jesus Christ rose again from the dead and this truth changes everything about our lives.
3. He will provide for the disciples' needs as they serve Him. They will not become rich or famous or even culturally influential. They will serve. They will all likewise suffer, but they will serve Him and as they serve He will provide what they need.