

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Restoration of Peter

Last several times...Jesus appeared to the disciples, without and then with Thomas

This time...Jesus appears to the disciples for the 3rd time and takes care of some unfinished business with Peter

We will be in John 21

v1 After these things...again:

After the risen Lord had revealed Himself to

1. Mary Magdalene
2. the other faithful women
3. the 2 disciples on the road to Damascus
4. Peter
5. the eleven, less Thomas
6. the eleven, including Thomas

Jesus appeared again to the disciples....for the 3rd time (v14)

The first 6 appearances of the resurrected Jesus were in Jerusalem and its environs
This appearance is in the Galilee, per the instructions given to the women

- by angels in Matt 28:7, Mark 16:7
- by Jesus in Matt 28:10

They are probably on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee/Tiberias,
near Capernaum and Bethsaida
(those who have gone can visualize)

“This is how He appeared to the disciples.”

v2 There were together:

Who was there?

7 of the 11 disciples/apostles

- Simon Peter
- Thomas
- Nathanael
- sons of Zebedee
 - James
 - John
- two unnamed apostles

v3 I go a fishing:

What are they doing?

Fishing, what they did before Jesus called them to follow Him

Simon Peter, a natural leader, says, "I'm going fishing"

The other 6 follow him; "We're going with you."

In the first year of His ministry, Jesus said to these fishers of fish,

"Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." (Matt 4:19)

Has Jesus abandoned His mission of seeking and saving the lost now that

He is risen from the dead?

Has Jesus told the disciples to abandon their mission of being fishers of men, or has He changed their mission?

Did the Lord tell them to go fishing or are they acting on their own will?

So why are they going back to their old lives, their pre-Jesus ways?

Are they impatient or bored, discouraged or uncertain what to do, or not able to wait upon the Lord?

As fishers of fish, how did they do?

How profitable was their old life?

v4 morning...Jesus stood on the shore:

When did Jesus appear to them?

Sunrise on the Sea of Galilee (in the springtime)

Perhaps over His shoulder, the Mount of Beatitudes, site of the SoM

- Beatitudes
- You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world
- I come not to destroy the Law and the prophets but to fulfill
- Greater Righteousness – Spirit of the Law vs letter of the Law
 - Murder
 - Adultery
 - Divorce
 - Vows
 - Vengeance
 - Love
 - Giving
 - Prayer
 - Forgiveness
 - Worry and Money
 - Judging others
- Straight gate vs broad way
- Doing the will of My Father...or not

But...the disciples did not recognize Jesus, even after he had appeared to them twice

Why not?

- Something about Jesus' glorified body?
- The distance?
- Not looking with discerning eyes?

v5 Children...any meat...No:

Why is Jesus there and why then?

He was with them before, even if they did not see Him

He heard Peter's "announcement" and the others following

He knew their thoughts

He knows the result of their old lives

So Jesus, their Lord and their Provider, calls out to these grown men.

as Lord: Children...a gentle term of endearment, John 1:12-13 from
God's perspective

as Provider: Have you any food, how was your catch of fish last night?

They caught nothing, they have no food

They have nothing to show for the labors of their old ways

As providers, theirs was a night of failure

v6 Cast the net...not able to draw...It is the Lord:

So, the Lord their Provider and the all-knowing Creator, instructs these
professional fishers of fish where to fish –

on the right side of their ship where He has assembled a great catch for
them

The catch is so big they were not able to haul in the net

A huge catch, serious money for fishers of fish

Echoes of Luke 5:1-11 in His 1st year of ministry

- He stood on the shore of Lake Gennesaret/Sea of Galilee
- the fishers of fish had toiled all night and caught nothing
- Jesus told Peter to cast his net again
- Peter, reluctantly but at Jesus' word, does
- a multitude of fish was caught such that their net broke
- "Depart from me, for I am a sinful (unbelieving) man, O Lord."
- "Fear not, from henceforth you shall catch men."
- they forsook all (including the catch) and followed Him

Now, here at the “end” of His ministry, déjà vu all over again
Why?

The Lord is reminding His disciples of His calling on their lives –
fishers of men, not of fish

v7 It is the Lord:

The parallel is not lost on John, who had entered the empty tomb and believed
before even seeing the risen Lord
John is discerning – “It is the Lord!”

How does Peter, the leader of this fishing expedition, react?
Abandon ship...and the huge catch
Man overboard!
The Lord is pre-eminent; He is all that matters, these fish do not

v8-11 far from land...fire...fish...bread:

The 7 disciples were about 100 yards offshore
(perhaps why they may not have recognized/discerned Jesus)

Peter is swimming to shore, the other 6 are dragging the huge catch back to shore
in their “Jesus boat”

When they get back on land, they notice that Jesus has provided breakfast

- fire
- fish
- bread

He tells them to bring ashore the catch that

- He provided...there would be no catch without His provision
- they caught...there would be no catch without their obedient labor at
His direction

At the Lord’s further direction, Peter muscles the huge catch to shore
153 great/big fish...Eph 3:20-ish for all 7 fishers of fish

Why 153?

Every theory is speculation
idk, it is a mystery

But unlike Luke 5, the net was not broken

What does that mean?

Perhaps we will learn as we keep reading

v12-14 Come dine:

The Lord cares for His children, He knows everything about them
They have labored all night for naught and they are hungry
He has provided breakfast...and He served them that breakfast

They all knew it was Him...and are served by Him again (John 13)
Jesus is continuing to teach them, by example

Now Jesus ministers to Peter to finish the unfinished business

There is a breach in Peter's heart that

- started after the Last Supper on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane
(Matt 26:30-35)
- blossomed at Caiphas' house (Matt 26:57-58, 69-75)
- cauterized on Resurrection Sunday (Mark 16:6-7)
- restored here

v15 Love Me more than these...Feed My lambs:

After breakfast, Jesus turns to Peter

Love Me...*agapao*, God's devoted, longsuffering, sacrificial, Self-last,
Self-less, turn-the-other-cheek, love-your-enemies Love

than these...153 great/big fish (a huge catch for a fisher of fish) and an
unbroken net (ready for more of that kind of fishing)

It is time for Peter to choose:

- a. to be a fisher of fish...for which the Provider will provide for the here
and now
- b. to be a fisher or men...a higher calling of the Lord for eternity

Peter, broken and not so self-confident any more, responds...
honestly and humbly

Yea, Lord...I love you more than these here-today-gone-tomorrow fish

You know...you know me better than I know myself,
as I have proven by my denial of You

I love you...*phileo*, man's emotional, lesser-than-God's love, the best-man
can-selflessly-do love

Jesus tells Peter to, "Feed My lambs"...lead My tender little ones out to pasture.
The work/ministry of a shepherd, not a fisher of fish

v16 the second time:

This time, Jesus

- asks again if Peter *agapaos* Him
- drops the “more than these”

Peter responds as he did the 1st time...*phileo*

It is the best he can do, which falls short of the best God can do

The Lord's command to Peter is a bit broader this time

Feed...tend, feed, watch over, and care for

My sheep...young and old and in between

Be a shepherd, not a commercial fisherman

v17 the third time:

This third time...a probing question for every denial of Him by Peter...

Jesus comes down to Peter's level, meets him where he is

Love Me...*phileo*

Peter, grieved not with the Lord but with his own weakness and shortcomings,
responds

Lord, You know all things...my weakness, my heart

Who but God knows all things, including our hearts?

Jer 17:9-10

You know I love you...*phileo*

The Lord's command to Peter is as the previous one

Feed/Tend/Care for My sheep

Be one of whom I have promised My people

Jer 3:15

I will give you pastors according to mine heart,
which shall feed you with knowledge and
understanding

The Lord has restored Peter to do the ministry He called him to do,

The Lord still has a mighty work to do in and thru Him (Acts)

The Lord uses vessels that are

- broken and humble
- available but not able
- honest

v18-19 wast young...shall be old...by what death:
 Jesus gives His restored disciple a glimpse of his future

When you were young...up to this time, young in the Lord

you have walked as you would...

- walked by sight and not by faith
- led by your own will
- been Self-first

But when you shall be old...when your shepherding, fisher of men
ministry is over, when you are mature in the Lord

you will stretch for your hands...in wingspan manner, crucified,
as I stretched forth My hands upon a Roman cross

another shall gird and carry you...the Holy Spirit

You will

- walk by faith and not by sight
- be Spirit-led, Self-last...even unto death for My sake
- lose your life for My sake, lay down your will for My will
- in your own “Garden of Gethsemane” moment, sanctify your
life unto Me...My will will be done, not yours

Follow Me (as in Matt 4:19 and Matt 16:24)

Fast Forward to the end of Peter’s ministry

1 Peter 5:1-4
2 Peter 1:10-16
2 Peter 3:1-4, 14-18

Peter finished well...strong in the Lord, led by the Holy Spirit

v20-22 the disciple whom Jesus loved:

The Apostle John is recording these words of God

- the disciple whom Jesus loved
- the disciple that leaned on Jesus’ breast at the Last Supper
- the disciple who asked Jesus Peter’s question regarding which of them
was going to betray Jesus

for the Church, perhaps 25-30 years after Peter was martyred as prophesied by
Jesus

Peter, still comparing and competing with the other disciples, wants to know what
is going to happen to John

The Lord's response is direct and to the point
That is none of your business
Your business is to follow Me
Keep your eyes on Me and not others
Their business is My business with them

v23-24 Then went this saying abroad:

The Lord's message to Peter was misunderstood by the early church,
they had missed His point.
A false doctrine sprung forth, that the Lord would return to earth before the
Apostle John died
So now, in the mid-90s, the Holy Spirit thru the Apostle John corrects this
false teaching

v25 I suppose:

John bears testimony that if everything Jesus did was recorded, there would not be
enough shelf space in all the world for all the books

PTL! We have all eternity to "read" these books!

Enough has been written for the readers to

- believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Ch 20:31)
- lay our lives down for Him
- follow Him

Note: I suppose

In this last sentence is the only time in this Gospel that the
Apostle John refers to himself in the 1st person

Last word: Amen

Application

Consider Jesus

- appeared
- loved
- directed
- provided for
- served
- met Peter where he was
- restored/encouraged Peter

Consider Peter

- went back to his old life, doing what he knew to do and was comfortable doing
- was discouraged, uncertain as to what else to do
- caught nothing in the pursuit of his will
- did not discern the Lord initially
- cast his net at the Lord's direction and brought in a huge catch
- jumped overboard when he discerned the Lord, leaving the huge catch behind
- humbled and discouraged, was restored/encouraged/strengthened by the Lord
- is still a work-in-progress

So what?

This message is for me personally, you all just happen to be here
(even though the message is for you too)

The Lord has a way of teaching us – by having us live it before He teaches it!

I struggled this week, wrestling with discouragement

Just as all of you have at times wrestled with discouragement

For several days this week I was uncertain, doubting my calling,

“Why am I doing this?”

“Why do I bother?”

“Why is serving the Lord so painful and frustrating and difficult?”

“Maybe I should just go back into the business world...even though

- I hate the chase for money
- every time I have done that since the Lord called me to this ministry I have ‘caught nothing’.

“Why does the grace of God in the hearts of people fail so easily and so frequently?”

“Lord, You said, ‘...upon this rock I will build My church.’”

“For which I am thankful because I cannot build a church....clearly”

“What am I doing that I should not be doing?”

“What am I not doing that I should be doing?”

“Am I not hearing what You are saying to me?”

“Lord, what do you want me to do?”

“And I am not sure that I can.”

In the back of my finite and frail mind was,

“I don't want to do this any more.”

“Someone else could do this far better than I can.”

Then came time to study for Sunday morning...this passage of Scripture

I get the sense that Peter was

- encouraged –
 - the Lord is alive!
 - he was excited to see and be with Jesus – he jumped overboard!
- discouraged –
 - what has come from these years of following Jesus?
 - not sure he can continue with the Lord, given his “performance” the day Jesus was crucified and died

Things had not gone as he had hoped they would, his hopes and expectations were different than how things have turned out

He was not all that and a bag of chips as he so proudly boasted.

He was more comfortable with the old life, doing something he knew how to do.

The Lord knew all that about Peter

The Lord was with Peter even if he could not see Jesus

The Lord met Peter right where he was

The Lord provided for, served, and restored/encouraged Peter

Most certainly, a message for me personally this week

And possibly for you as well

Let me be clear: This was a week of self-examination, not you-examination.

But self- examination is for you to do also.

The Lord knew my pain and thoughts and doubts and struggle with discouragement

The Lord was with me even though I could not see Him

The Lord met me right where I was

The Lord provided for, served, and restored/encouraged me

The Lord has neither halted nor changed His calling.

My journey with Him is not over.

He is still working with me...I am a work-in-progress

But I said, Lord,

I love you...to the best of my ability, which falls far short of what You are worthy

I am weak

I am broken

I am humbled...again

I am available

I hope I am teachable

Please make up for my shortcomings

Please make me useful for Your glory

Please make me a pastor according to Your heart to feed/tend Your sheep

Please make me a fisher of men in these dark days

I am one of your sheep; please give me a heart and mind willing to hear Your voice and follow You...into some uncomfortable places that I may grow in You

You told Your disciples to bring ashore the catch that

- You provided...there would be no catch without Your provision
- they caught...there would be no catch without their obedient labor at Your direction

Please strengthen me to faithfully labor at Your direction for the catch You will provide.

He, the Servant of God, gave me to encourage me:

He knows all the things I was wrestling with this week

Is 42:1-4a Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth

Heb 2:18 he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted

Heb 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

What did Jeremiah have to show for 42-47 years of serving the Lord?
Faithfulness...unto death (last man standing)

Zech 4:6 Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zech 4:9-10a The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. For who hath despised the day of small things?

Col 3:12-17, 23-24

Discouragement comes from the devil.
Never act on discouragement!

He encouraged me.

Follow Me – I have a plan just for you

Keep going.

We're not finished!

Here at the start of another week, the Lord is still with me and will be to the end.

“Follow Me” is to the very end, not to any point short of that

The Lord is always right there to encourage me, even when I cannot see Him

Let me be clear: This was a week of self-examination, not you-examination.

But self-examination is for all of us.

We all have ministries

- spouse
- parent
- child
- brother/sister
- friend
- employee
- in the church
- teachers and preachers

Guided by the Holy Spirit, let us examine ourselves

Peter jumped overboard to get to Jesus

No one was more important to him than Jesus

Nothing was more important to him than Jesus

Jesus was pre-eminent – 1st Place in his heart

Can we say the same thing?

Do our lives, calendars, time reflect Jesus is 1st Place in our hearts?

We fall short, don't we?

Be encouraged.

Keep going.

Don't stop now.

Surrender, decrease, be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind

The Lord wants us to grow and mature in Him as we follow Him

Phil 1:6

I want what the Lord wants for me.

I pray you want what the Lord wants for you.