

PETER

5. Restored & Recommissioned



Introduction

Since the resurrection Jesus had appeared to the disciples a number of times, but Peter still felt as if he was a failure and suggested to the others that they go fishing again. God's purpose for Peter had never changed. He was still called to be a 'fisher of men'. In this last study we see how Jesus restored and recommissioned Peter.

Bible Reading: John 21:1-22

1. On the Lake v1-8

- ❖ Where were the disciples when this took place, and who was there? V1-2, 24-25, Luke 5:10
- ❖ What difficulty does Peter and the other disciples encounter? V24



Why do you think the disciples did not recognize Jesus at first? Discuss.

- ❖ What did Jesus ask them to do and what happened? V6

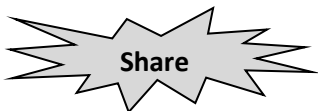


How did the other disciple now realize it was the Lord? Discuss.

- ❖ What did Peter do? V7

2. On the Beach v9-14

- ❖ What did Jesus do for the disciples? V9, 12, 13



What can you learn about Jesus from this story?

3. Jesus and Peter v15-22

- ❖ Not long before this Peter had denied Jesus. Now Jesus asks him, "Do you love me?" What are the similarities between these two events? And what are the differences?
- ❖ When Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" in verse 15, what do you think he meant?

When Jesus asked Peter if he loved him, he used the word 'agape'. This is the highest word for love, the word used to describe God's love. However when Peter replied he knew he could not say this, so he replied, "You know that I love you as a friend." Peter uses the word 'philo'.

- ❖ Why do you think Peter replied like that?
- ❖ Jesus asked the same question again, but it differed slightly from the first time he asked Peter. What was the difference? V16

The third time Jesus asks Peter he changes the word he uses from 'agape' to 'philo'. Jesus accepts our love for him even though it falls far short of his love for us.

- ❖ What commission does Jesus now give Peter? V15-17



When Jesus had first called Peter to become his disciple he said, "Follow me." Once again Jesus calls Peter to follow him. What do you think Peter now understands by this, in the light of v18-19? Discuss.

Conclusion

Perhaps like Peter you have let Jesus down and feel like you are a failure. Maybe you have gone back to doing what you did before you knew Jesus, just as Peter did. Jesus wants to reach out to you and restore you. You may feel disqualified, but just as he recommissioned Peter, he wants to reinstate you. He is asking you the same question, "Do you love me?" If so then respond to his love, and to his call, "Follow me."