

PETER

5. Restored & Recommissioned

(Leader's Copy)



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
(They were on the Sea of Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee. Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee and two other disciples were there. The sons of Zebedee were James and John.)
- ❖ Describe what happens on the shores of the lake in your own words.



Why do you think the disciples did not recognize Jesus at first? Discuss.
(There are various possibilities. It was early in the morning and they were some distance from the shore, so perhaps it was difficult to see. Also they were feeling discouraged and were not expecting to see Jesus. Perhaps Jesus also looked different in some way after the resurrection.)

- ❖ What did Jesus ask them to do and what happened? V6
(Jesus asked them to throw the net out on the right side and when they did it was filled with fish.)

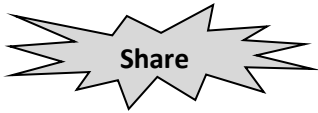


How did the other disciple now realize it was the Lord? Discuss.
(The 'other disciple' was John who wrote this book. This miraculous catch of fish was the same as what had happened two years earlier, when Jesus had called Peter, James and John to be his disciples. When the same thing happened again, John immediately realized it was Jesus.)

- ❖ What did Peter do? V7
(He wrapped his outer garment around him and jumped into the water, then waded to shore ahead of the others.)

2. On the Beach v9-14

- ❖ What did Jesus do for the disciples? V9, 12, 13
(Jesus had prepared a charcoal fire, cooked food, then invited them to eat and served them. What a beautiful picture!)



What can you learn about Jesus from this story?

(There is so much! We see his humility and kindness. We see how he understood Peter and came to him at this time. He also knew the disciples physical needs and provided for them.)

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?
(In both incidences there was a charcoal fire and in both three confessions were made. The differences were that it was night time when Peter denied Jesus and now it was early morning. Then he had been alone and now he was with other disciples. At that time he was separated from Jesus and now he was with him, and at that time he had denied Jesus but now he confesses his love for him.)
- ❖ When Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me more than these?” in verse 15, what do you think he meant?
(Jesus could have been referring to the other disciples, or the things around him like the boat and fishing net, or Jesus could have meant, “Do you love me more than these other men do?”)

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?
(Peter now realized how weak he really was and that he was incapable of loving Jesus the way Jesus loved him.)
- ❖ Jesus asked the same question again, but it differed slightly from the first time he asked Peter. What was the difference? V16
(This time Jesus does not add the words, ‘more than these.’)

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
(Jesus now commissions Peter to feed his lambs, to take care of his sheep, and finally to feed his sheep.)



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.”