

# The Gospel According to John “Jesus’ Revelation and Peter’s Restoration”

John 21:1-23



## John 21:1-3

After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way.

Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you."

They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.

## John 21:4-6

But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. So Jesus said to them, “Children, you do not have any fish, 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 a catch.” So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

## **John 21:6-8**

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 his outer garment on (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 one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish.

## John 21:9-14

So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have now caught.”

Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; 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 question Him, “Who are You?” knowing that it was the Lord.

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

## John 21:15-17

So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Tend My lambs.” He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?”

Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time,

“Do you love Me?” And he said to Him,

“Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.

## John 21:18-19

“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.”

Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me!”

## John 21:20-23

Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?”

Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!” 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?””



# Main Point

After Jesus revealed Himself by providing a great catch of fish to His disciples and by feeding them, He graciously restored Peter to the work of feeding His flock and readied him for his final test.

# Jesus' Revelation, Peter's Restoration

Jesus reveals Himself.



# Background

## John 21:1-3

After these things Jesus *revealed* Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He *revealed* Himself in this way.

Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.

**Jesus reveals Himself.**

By providing a great catch of fish.

## **John 21:4-6**

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## **John 21:11**

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# Revelation leads to realization...

## 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 his outer garment on (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 one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish.

Jesus used this miraculous catch as a means of self-revelation, but He likely intended it to signify more. His disciples were to be those who do the gathering.

# **Jesus reveals Himself.**

By providing a great catch of fish.

**By feeding His disciples.**

## **John 21:9-10**

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None of the disciples ventured to question Him,  
“Who are You?” knowing that it was the Lord.  
Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them,  
and the fish likewise.



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**Jesus came and took the bread  
and gave it to them,  
and the fish likewise.**

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus fed  
His disciples in the wilderness.

**Ezekiel 34:2 and 13**

“Should not the shepherds feed the flock?”

“I will feed them on the mountains of Israel.”

But He also involved His disciples  
in the feeding.

# Jesus' Revelation, Peter's Restoration

Jesus reveals Himself.

Jesus restores Peter.



# **Jesus restores Peter.**

He gives him opportunity  
to confess Him three times.

## **John 21:15-16**

So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

He said to him, “Tend My lambs.” He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.”

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## **John 21:17**

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.



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Peter had denied Jesus three times, so Jesus graciously gives Peter the opportunity to confess Him three times.

# **An Important Side Note:**

**John 21:15**

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**John 21:15**

Jesus said to Simon Peter,

“Simon, son of John, do you ***agapao*** Me more than these?”

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I ***phileo*** You.”

But...

**John 3:35**

“The Father loves (***agapao***) the Son...”

**John 5:20**

“For the Father loves (***phileo***) the Son...”

# Jesus' gracious restoration...

**John 21:15-16**

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Jesus knew that Peter needed to be reconciled to Him, so He graciously brought him to grief and drew out from him confessions of his faith and love as means to restoration.



# Jesus restores Peter.

He gives him opportunity to confess Him three times.

He gives him care of His flock.

Jesus not only restored Peter relationally, but He restored him to ministry.

In a radical display of grace and mercy,  
Jesus entrusted His precious flock  
into Peter's care.

**John 21:15-17**

He said to him, "Tend My lambs."

He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep."

Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."

This care was not given exclusively to Peter  
nor to any so-called papal succession.

**1 Peter 5:1-2**

Therefore, I exhort the elders among you,  
as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ,  
and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,  
shepherd the flock of God among you...”

# Jesus' Revelation, Peter's Restoration

Jesus reveals Himself.

Jesus restores Peter.

Jesus readies Peter.



**Jesus readies Peter.**

He foretells Peter's death.

## **John 21:18-19**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.”

## John 21:18-19

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where you do not wish to go.”

Now this He said, signifying by what kind  
of death he would glorify God.

And when He had spoken this,  
He said to him, **“Follow Me!”**

# Background

## John 13:36-38

Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?”  
Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now;  
but you will follow later.”

Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You right now?  
I will lay down my life for You.”

Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for Me?  
Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow  
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Jesus had fully restored Peter;  
now He readied him to fully follow,  
even to the death he had previously  
boasted that he would endure.



# Jesus readies Peter.

He foretells Peter's death.

He calls forth Peter's faith.

## **John 21:19**

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## **John 21:20-21**

Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?"

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# What was Peter really asking?

## **John 21:22**

Jesus said to him,  
“If I want him to remain until I come,  
what is that to you? You follow Me!”

**John 21:22**

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Jesus said to him,

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**what is that to you?** You follow Me!”

**John 21:22**

Jesus said to him,

“If I want him to remain until I come,

what is that to you? **You follow Me!”**



Jesus pressed on Peter's distorted desires, redirected his horizontal focus, and called him to entrust himself to his Lord's sovereign rule.

With a simple command, Jesus called forth Peter's faith.

# Conclusion

Jesus has revealed Himself as both Lord and Christ; have you believed on Him?

Jesus has demonstrated His great patience and mercy; are you resting in Him?