

FISHING FOR PETER

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' arrest, trials, death, burial, and resurrection are mentioned in four chapters of the Gospel of John. Chapter 18 covers His arrest and trials. Chapter 19 covers His death and burial while chapters 20-21 cover His resurrection along with the events that occurred afterwards including the hope that Jesus brought with it. Obviously, His return was an encouraging experience for all of the Apostles especially Peter because it gave Jesus a chance to forgive him. He used it to bring this wayward man back into the ministry which is what we are going to talk about today by looking at "4 Things that this Passage Teaches Us about Peter's Restoration."

1). His Restoration Began with a Fishing Expedition (verses 1-3).

Verses 1-3 says, *"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.'"*

Discussion Question A: Describe this passage in your own words.

Discussion Question B: Now describe why Peter and the disciples went fishing. Was this a hobby for them or was there more to it than that?

2). His Restoration Continued with a Miracle (verses 4-8).

Verses 4-6 says, *"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."*

Discussion Question A: What was the reason Jesus performed this miracle for the disciples?

Discussion Question B: What sort of impact did it have on them? (Hint: See Peter's reaction in verse 7)

3). His Restoration Continued with a Conversation (verses 9-17).

Verses 15-17 says, “*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.’”*

Discussion Question A: Why did Jesus ask Peter “Do you love Me” 3 times?

Discussion Question B: Had Peter’s love for Christ faltered recently? What led to his downfall?

4). His Restoration Concluded with a Prophecy (verses 18-25).

Verses 18-19 says, “*‘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!’”*

Discussion Question A: How did Jesus’ words encourage Peter in this passage? How did they serve as a warning to him?

Discussion Question B: What does the phrase “When you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone ... will bring you where you do not wish to go” mean? Why was it necessary for Peter to hear that?