

“HE DWELT AMONG US”

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 22 Chapter 21

The End, and Yet Only the Beginning

In **John, chapter 19**, we saw Jesus experience the depth of pain and the agony of the cross. He paid the ultimate price.

In **chapter 20**, we rejoiced in the victory of the resurrection.

Now in **John, chapter 21**, we will learn about the important transition the disciples needed to make. They had experienced a tumultuous series of events. Even though they had been reassured that their Lord was alive, they knew that their relationship with Him would be different. He would no longer “dwell among them” in a physical sense. They must have had many unanswered questions. Jesus’ answer could possibly be summed up in the simple command and call He gave to Peter, “*Follow Me.*” (**John 21:19**)

DAY #1 **Pray before you start your lesson each day.**

Read **John, chapter 21** all the way through. Then go back and record the main facts. Several verses can be grouped together as you record the people, actions etc. Give a short title to this entire chapter.

Title:

DAY #2 Read John 21:1-6

A godly leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.

1) In **Matthew 28:10**, we read that Jesus had instructed the disciples to go to Galilee, and they would see Him there. They had, in obedience, left Jerusalem and now were near the Sea of Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee. Peter was definitely a leader. The other disciples quickly responded to his suggestion to go fishing. Their decision to fish doesn't necessarily show a slipping into the life of their past, even though most had previously been full time fishermen. At this point, however, they had received no clear direction. They were waiting for the Lord. It is much easier to plunge into some familiar activity than to quietly, prayerfully wait on the Lord.

A. What do you think is symbolic about the fact that they had not caught any fish all night using their own methods?

B. Have you ever or are you now waiting on the Lord? Share how you can apply the lessons from the disciple's fishing trip to your own experience.

2) It is interesting to note when Peter reached the shore, Jesus was standing by a "fire of coals." The last "fire of coals" Peter was warmed by was in the enemy camp (**John 18:18**). Share the insights you might have as you ponder the difference between the two and the effect it might have had on Peter as he experienced Jesus' ready welcome.

DAY #3 THE REINSTATING OF PETER

At the last supper Jesus had with His disciples (**John 13-17**), He warned Peter, "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers" (**Luke 22:31, 32**). In **John 18:15-27**, we read that under pressure and fear, Peter denied his Lord three times. Broken and ashamed, Peter needed restoration from the Lord directly. Then and only then could he go on to serve Him.

God formed us; sin deformed us; Christ's love transforms us.

- 1) Read **John 21:15-17**. This is a very important interaction between the once self confident Peter and his dear Lord Jesus. In the original manuscripts, two different Greek words for love are used in the exchange. When we read the English translation, only one word “love” is used. The Greek word *agapas* in this context has the meaning of unselfish love, ready to serve. The *philo* of Peter’s answer suggests intimate and tender affection. By looking at the following chart, you will see when each word for “love” is used.

	Jesus’ Question	Peter’s Answer	Jesus’ Response
Verse 15	Lovest? (agapas)	I love (philo)	Feed my lambs
Verse 16	Lovest? (agapas)	I love (philo)	Shepherd my sheep
Verse 17	Lovest? (phileis)	I love (philo)	Shepherd my sheep

- A. Who are Jesus’ sheep?
- B. Why is love for Jesus an essential requirement for the job of feeding and tending to His sheep?
- C. Peter took the job assigned to him by the Lord very seriously. The book of **I Peter** was written by Peter toward the end of his earthly life. Read **I Peter 5:1-4** and share how what he wrote was an answer to the Lord’s prayer in **Luke 22:31**, “But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”
- 2) *Our Good Shepherd* is Jesus Himself.
- A. How is Jesus our example in **John, chapter 10** (review) as the good, loving shepherd?
- B. “*For the love of Christ controls and urges and impels us, because we are of the opinion and conviction that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, so that all those who live might live no longer to and for themselves, but to and for Him Who died and was raised again for their sake.*” **II Corinthians 5:14-15** (Amplified) Jesus asks *you* today, “do you love Me?” Does His love for you and your love for Him control, urge, and impel you to obey Him? In what ways can you respond and accept the Lord’s request to feed and tend His sheep?

***Serving Christ under law is a duty;
under love it’s a delight!***

DAY #5

“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” John 20:30, 31

Praise the Lord! By His grace and guidance, we have come to know and understand the Gospel of John more clearly and deeply. As we started this study, one of the goals was that we would learn and actually “own” what we learn in this book. But the best and final goal would be that the truths that we’ve learned and the Lord Himself would actually “own” us.

REVIEW

Let us look back on the chapters that we have studied and review and reflect on what we have learned. It takes less than an hour to read the entire Gospel of John, a good investment at any time. May we read it again and again, as a great treasure that we truly love.

Review the chapters and lessons in each of the following sections, sharing the lessons that have powerfully ministered to you:

1) Jesus’ Manifestation to the Nation

A. Chapters **1** through **5**

B. Chapters **5** through **12**

DAY #6

2) Jesus' Preparation of His Disciples

A. Chapters **13** through **17**

3) Jesus' Death and Resurrection

A. Chapters **18** through **21**

“This is the disciple (John) who testifies of these things; and we know that his testimony is true.” John 21:24

Jesus' promise to us:

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

*Selected quotations throughout this study are from unknown authors. Many are found collected in *Our Daily Times with God*, Radio Bible Class.