

Peter Goes Fishing! Peter Gets Caught!

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John 21:1-22 (NASB)

21 After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested *Himself* in this way. ² 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. ³ 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.

⁴ But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ So Jesus *said* to them, “Children, you do not have any fish, do you?” They answered Him, “No.” ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.

⁹ So when they got out on the land, they *saw* a charcoal fire *already* laid and fish placed on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus *said* to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have now caught.” ¹¹ 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.

¹² 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. ¹³ Jesus *came* and *took* the bread and *gave it* to them, and the fish likewise. ¹⁴ This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ 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.” 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.

¹⁸ 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.”¹⁹ 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!”

²⁰ 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?” ²¹ So Peter seeing him *said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?” ²² Jesus *said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me!”

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe Peter’s emotions in this passage. Do you see yourself in him in some ways?
2. What is Jesus like? How would you describe Him in this passage? What traits do you observe?
3. Why did Peter choose to go fishing? Have you ever been tempted to leave ministry to “go fishing”?
4. Why did Peter ask about John in verse 21?
5. What stands out to you from this passage today? What is your takeaway from the Lord?