



## Part II: A mysterious stranger speaks to the disciples from the shore (John 21:4-14)

1. What happened as a result of the disciples fishing all night and doing the work under their own power (**vs. 4**)? How does this picture relate to your life spiritually? Have you found it true in your own life that when you've walked away from God, Jesus was there on the shore waiting to feed you spiritually when you repent and return to Him? At this point, did the disciples recognize it was Jesus waiting for them (**vs. 4**)?
2. One might think Jesus would be upset at the disciples for fleeing and disowning Him during His trial and crucifixion; only John remained. How did Jesus tenderly address His disciples in **verse 5**? Are you willing to forgive others when they've hurt you or let you down? Does **verse 5** indicate that Jesus had forgiven His disciples? Have you ever let Jesus down? Does Scripture indicate Jesus will forgive you if you repent? (See **1 John 1:9**)
3. What question did Jesus ask His disciples in **verse 5**? Do you think Jesus knew that the disciples hadn't caught any fish all night? Then why did Jesus ask them this question?
4. What instruction did "*the stranger*" on the shore give to these seasoned fishermen (**vs. 6**)? Did the disciples do as the stranger instructed? What makes their response so unusual? What happened as a result of the disciples following this stranger's instructions? In what way was this miracle similar to another? (See **Luke 5:4-8**)
5. Who was the first disciple to recognize Jesus? The "*disciple whom Jesus loved*" is believed to be the writer of this Gospel, the Apostle John (**vs. 7**). Do you think John may have remembered the similar event in **Luke 5:4-8**? What impulsive act did Peter do as soon as he realized the stranger on the beach was the resurrected Lord (**vs. 7**)? What makes Peter's actions so unusual?

6. How did the rest of the apostles get to shore (**vs. 8**)? How far from shore were they when they realized the man was Jesus? What was slowing them down? Do you have the ability to swim the length of a football field? Do you think it would be even harder if you had a coat on? What is a possible explanation for Peter jumping into the water fully dressed?
  
7. What did the disciples find once they arrived on shore (**vs. 9**)? NOTE: Peter had earlier denied Jesus 3 times next to a fire. Jesus is now preparing to restore Peter to ministry by having him affirm his love for Him 3x next to another fire. How do we see Jesus tenderly taking care of the physical needs of His disciples in **verse 9**?
  
8. What instruction did Jesus give to His disciples in **verse 10**? Who led the way in helping the disciples pull the heavy load of fish ashore (**vs. 11**)? According to **verse 11**, how many fish were in the net? Did the net break as it did in **Luke 5:6**? Was there any significance to the specific report of 153 fish in the net? What symbolism do you see in the net not breaking?
  
9. According to **verse 12**, was the resurrected Jesus physically recognizable to His disciples? Do we find this true in other biblical accounts of the resurrected Christ? (See **Luke 24:13-35; John 20:11-19**) What can we learn about the resurrected body of Jesus from these accounts? (See **John 20:26-29**)
  
10. What miracle should the bread and the fish instantly have reminded the disciples of (**vs. 13**)? (See **Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14**)
  
11. According to John, how many times at this point in his Gospel had Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples following the resurrection (**vs. 14**)?

### Part III: Jesus restores Simon Peter to ministry (John 21:15-17)

1. Notice that Jesus took care of the disciple's physical needs for food and warmth before dealing with Peter's spiritual need (**vs. 15**). What surprising question did Jesus ask Peter? Why do you think Jesus asked this? (See **Luke 22:54-62**) What name did Jesus address Peter by in **verse 15**? NOTE: Each time Peter reverts back to his old lifestyle, Jesus used Peter's old name Simon. Are there times you revert back to your old lifestyle before coming to Christ? What triggered this?
2. How did Simon respond to this piercing question from Jesus (**vs. 15**)? How would you respond if Jesus asked you the same question? What instruction did Jesus give to Peter in **verse 15**? Why do you think it is so important for us today to shepherd our children and new believers?
3. What question did Jesus ask Peter a second time in **verse 16**? How did Peter answer this time? It is important to note that Jesus and Peter were using different Greek words that we translate into our English word "love". Jesus was using the word "*agapao*" which is a self-sacrificial love; it is the complete commitment to loving another. Peter was using the Greek word "*phileo*" which means "*affection*", or "*brotherly love*". It is the Greek word that we get the name of Philadelphia from, "*the city of brotherly love.*" Why do you think Jesus asked Peter this question a second time? What did He instruct Peter to do this time if he were to prove his love?
4. What question did Jesus ask Peter in **verse 17** for a third time? NOTE: Jesus used a play on words here as He changed the Greek wording to ask Peter if he really had a "*phileo*" love for Him. In other words, "*Simon, do you even have an affectionate love for Me?*" How did Peter respond to this painful question from Jesus? If Peter truly did love Jesus, how should he demonstrate it? Do you "*really*" love Jesus?
5. Peter's restoration took place in front of a fire as Jesus had Peter affirm his love to Him on three separate occasions. This reminds us of Peter's three denials of Jesus before another fire when Jesus was on trial. Jesus not only forgave Peter, He also restored him to ministry. Jesus was telling Peter, "If you truly love Me, live like it and minister to the needs of others. If someone was asked about you, would he or she say that you live like you love Jesus? Are you using your spiritual giftedness and serving in the ministry of your local church? If not, why not ask how you can help today?"

6. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not repent and do so in prayer right now?

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- Even Christians stumble in their spiritual walk at times!
- Little is accomplished spiritually when we minister in our own strength!
- No matter how badly we mess up our lives, Jesus is only a prayer away and waiting for us to return to Him!
- When we obey Christ, spiritual blessings beyond our greatest expectations come about!
- The 153 fish may have been symbolic of all of the nations in the world and the catch may have symbolized that the disciples were to be fishers of men from all nations!
- It is significant that the net did not break; the Lord loses none of His own!
- If we truly love Jesus, we will live like it and care for the needs of others!