



## ***The Dynamic Gospel Study Guide – Book of John***

### **Chapter 21**

1 Jesus revealed Himself to His students in the same way in more places, including along the Sea of Tiberias.

2 Simon Peter was with a number of the other disciples at the time, including Thomas the twin, Nathanael who lived nearby in Cana, the two sons of Zebedee (James and John,) and two more.

3 Perhaps he was bored or hungry, but Peter said, “I’m going fishing – anyone want to go with me?” The whole group accepted and got into the boat together. They stayed out all night without snagging a single fish in their net.

4 At first light they saw a man standing on the shore nearest to them. It was Jesus but they didn’t know it yet.

5 Jesus called out to them across the water. “Hey, kids! You have anything to eat?” “No,” they grumbled back.

6 “Have you tried casting the net on the right side, yet?” Jesus called out again. “You might be surprised at what you’ll find.” This the men did and were suddenly overwhelmed with a net-breaking catch. With all their might they couldn’t haul it in. The net was just too full.

7 That disciple called the Lord’s ‘best friend’ said to Peter “It’s got to be Jesus.” Peter, having earlier stripped down to his skivvies, threw on his jacket to cover himself and stepped right out of the boat. No walking this time, he took the cold splash in the face without hesitation and swam the hundred and fifty yards to shore.

8 The others carefully paddled the skiff in, trying not to lose their tremendous catch and dragging it behind the boat.

9 By the time they stepped out onto dry land they found the beginnings of breakfast already waiting for them. Fresh-cooked fish sizzling over the coals and fresh bread.

10 Jesus looked up from the fire and said “What are you waiting for? Get some of those fish ready and throw them on the grill.”

11 Peter stepped ahead and grabbed the haul rope on the net. He dragged it up the shore and secured it. He started tossing out the large fish, counting as he went. The others joined in. One hundred fifty three in total and a magnificent catch it was! It was amazing that the net hadn’t broken from the weight of it all.

12 “Hurry up,” Jesus called to them. “It’s practically lunch time. Dig in while it’s still hot.” The fishermen had plenty of questions but they kept their mouths shut. No one dared. They knew they were in the presence of their Master. Fully-alive and cooking up a storm. It was practically a ‘normal’ scene from their earlier lives traveling with the Great Teacher.

13 Jesus stepped up and eagerly served all the famished men. He heaped out generous portions of bread and fish to each of them.

14 This was now the third time that Jesus had appeared to them all, in a convincing really-there manner. Body and spirit, He was really risen from the dead.

15 So they all enjoyed a leisurely meal together. While they chatted, Jesus threw out a probing question. It was aimed at Peter. He said “Simon, son of Jonas, so you love Me passionately? More than all of these combined?” Even for Jesus, it seemed an odd question, more intimate than Peter was used to, but he plowed ahead enthusiastically. “You bet I do! You're the boss! I think You'd know me well enough by now. We're the best of friends.” “Take care of My little lambs, Peter. They need you.”

16 Later Jesus repeated the question. “Simon, son of Jonas! Do you love Me with an all-consuming passion?” “Of course I do, Lord,” Peter replied. “I've always been fond of You personally, and I'm proud to work for You.” “Really? My flock desperately needs a tender, understanding shepherd, willing to sacrifice anything for them.”

17 As they were cleaning up the meal, Jesus cornered Peter again, in front of everybody. “Simon! Son of Jonas, are you at least My good friend?” Peter was beginning to feel embarrassed. Did He really have to ask it three times? “Lord, You know everything already. Of course I hold You in the highest regard. I'll do anything You want.” Jesus quietly replied “It's the flock, Peter. They'll starve on their own. Lead them to the food they need.”

18 Jesus took Peter aside for a little walk along the beach. “Peter, listen very carefully. When you were just starting out, you could barely tie your own shoelaces. But you were young and thought you had the world by the tail. You could do whatever you wanted; go wherever you pleased. Now you've grown up. When you're old there will come a time when you'll be dragged to a place you'd rather not go. When you are stretched out, you'll have to pass the mantle for good.”

19 Jesus said this to indicate how Peter would eventually die. He'd do it in the service of God and to His glory. “You say you'll follow Me anywhere, Peter. And so you shall. Follow well.”

20 Peter was distraught but attentive. He turned to notice that 'best friend' following at a not too discreet distance. The same one who had been right on the inside during all the traumatic events in Jerusalem. The one who had flushed out the traitor. The one who could tackle Jesus at anytime with a hug and not be scolded for it.

21 As the best friend pulled up to them, Peter asked “So, what about him? What's his lot in life?”

22 Jesus said “If I want him to live peacefully till the day I return, what's that to you? Your job is to follow Me, not worry about him.”

23 Others in the fellowship have taken that quote too literally over the years, thinking that the one in question would never die. Yet Jesus never said that. He was simply making the point that it was no business of Peter to ask such things.

24 And so we come to the close of this account. The disciple known as 'best friend' is the one who writes these words. It is my official testament. What I have seen with my own eyes I have committed to these pages. Amazing as it may read, I have only recorded the unvarnished truth.

25 There are, of course, so many more things that Jesus said and did that are not recorded in this book. There was never a thing He did that was **not** important, and all the books in the world couldn't contain them all, or give a final account of how amazing this story really is. It's still being written today on the hearts of all who receive it.

## ***Explain the Context:***

From your reading provide a short answer to the following:

<b>What</b> is the theme of this chapter?	<b>What</b> is the BIG Idea?
<b>What</b> is something that surprised you?	<b>What</b> is this chapter <i>not</i> saying?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) Sometimes when we're processing stressful situations we fall back into "old patterns".  
What "old pattern" did the disciples fall into?
- 2) Why do you think the disciples didn't recognize Jesus when He was on the shore?
- 3) How discouraged might the disciples have felt having fished all night? Why do you think they obeyed in casting their nets again?
- 4) What was it that prompted John to declare, "It is the Lord!"



## ***Apply the Scripture***

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

---

---

---

---

How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### **For further study:**

- 1 Timothy 3:16
- 1 John 1:2
- John 10:11