

John 21

John 21.1-5

V1 – The Sea of Tiberius = Sea of Galilee

- Brother Woods: Jesus generally limited his appearances after the resurrection to the disciples only
- The general public had had its opportunity to see him already

V2 – **How many of the disciples were gathered together here?** Seven

V3 – **Who spoke up with an idea?** Peter

- His idea?** To go fishing
- Why would he want to go fishing?** Maybe running short of food, maybe reverting to his former occupation, maybe just waiting for further instructions from the Lord
- Response of the other six apostles?** To join him
- They didn't catch anything that night

V4 – Sudden appearance of Jesus on the beach

- A miraculous appearance seems to be indicated (as he appeared behind closed doors in *John 20*)
- Why did the disciples not recognize him?** Maybe sun in eyes, maybe not expecting him

V5 – "Children" – not an intimate term, but rather more or less common term of address ("Sons...")

- Jesus asks them about their fishing

John 21.6-11

V6 – Much discussion on whether this was a miracle or not

- Maybe a person on the shore could see better, or maybe a miracle (probably the latter, since the Bible does not waste words)

V7 – It is interesting to see the differences between individuals

- Who recognized Jesus first?** John, the disciple Jesus loved
- Who acted first?** Peter – jumped into the water
- He clothed himself first – it was always proper to be clothed when greeting someone, although he would have still had on his undergarments - he was not naked

V8 – **What did the other apostles do?** They were more proper and came to shore in the boat

- Peter forgot all about the fish; the other disciples had to pull in the catch

V9 – **What did they find when they got to Jesus?** A charcoal fire, with fish being cooked and some bread to eat

- What a scene: For those who have done much camping, breakfast cooked outdoors on or near a beach is a great experience
- Here Jesus was present – surely the apostles remembered this morning for a lifetime

V10 – Jesus asked for some more fish to be brought to the fire

V 11 – Total number of large fish? 153

- Many analyses of this number have been made trying to determine its significance, but thus far no consistent theory has been put forth
- It apparently is given just to show the power of the miracle

John 21.12-14

V 12 – The disciples seem to be awe-struck by this event – none dared to speak

V 13 – Jesus began the meal

V 14 – **What were the other two occasions where Jesus appeared to the apostles?** Sunday evening (without Thomas), and the next Sunday evening (with Thomas)

John 21.15-17

V 15 – **Why did Jesus ask Peter this question?** Remember that Peter had said that all others would forsake him, but not Peter

- Question of Christ?** Do you love me more than the other apostles love me?
- Reply?** Yes, you know I love you
- Jesus?** Tend my lambs (in other words, be a good leader for God's people)

V 16 – Notice: Jesus is addressing Peter as Simon

- Why?** He wasn't a "rock" after the denial
- His courage had to be built up again
- Instruction of Jesus this second time?** Shepherd my sheep
- Did Peter ever become a shepherd for the people of God?** Yes, an elder – See *1 Peter 5.1-5*

V 17 – **What was Peter's reaction to the third questioning?** A little frustrated

- Why did Jesus ask him the question three times?** Because Peter had denied Christ three times
- Peter used one Greek word for love (*phileo*)
- Jesus used another (*agape*) the first and second times
- and *phileo* the third time
- Some people see a significance to this, but many Greek scholars see no significance
- Jesus seems to be testing the strength of Peter's love for Christ in these verses

John 21.18-23

V 18 – **What prophecy did Jesus make concerning Peter?** When old, he would be bound and taken where he would not want to go

- Why would Jesus tell him this?** To sober him up to his responsibilities as an apostle
- "Stretch out your hands" – a first century expression referring to crucifixion

V 19 – **The command of Jesus?** Follow me

V 20-21 – It is easy to misjudge Peter here

-Peter was concerned (in love) over the future of John and wanted to make sure John was taken care of

V 22 – A mild rebuke from Jesus

-**Explain reply?** Peter was to first concentrate on his own steadfastness

V 23 – One reason for *John 21*: to correct a false rumor that John would never die

John 21.24-25

V 24 – John was an eye-witness of these things

-His testimony can be trusted

V 25 – Notice the beautiful and moving comments of brother Guy N. Woods, as he brings his *Gospel Advocate Commentary* to a close (p. 448):

And so, on this day, July 4 1980, I have written the last word of commentary on this remarkable testimony of John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved," to the deity and Messiahship of Jesus. For many months I have been in such close association with John and with him whom he so vividly and lovingly describes that, at times, I have felt that I was being privileged to see, to hear and to enter into the very heart of the living, breathing Saviour of the world and to know him and his mission far better than ever I have before. If I have been able, in any degree, to open up in these pages a higher, nobler, view of our blessed Redeemer and Lord than any reader has thus far had, I shall be amply repaid for the labor of love this effort has required.

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