

## The Restoration and Commission of the Disciples – John 21

### I. Jesus Demonstrates the Disciples' Need (1-6)

#### A. Jesus appears to the Disciples in Galilee (1-3)

##### 1. The Disciples Remained Together (1-2)

- a. They were commanded to
- b. Notice that many of the disciples listed here are the same ones listed in John chapter 1. (with the addition of Thomas)
  - i. (I believe John is one of the unnamed disciples in chapter 1)
  - ii. The only time Nathanael is mentioned in the New Testament is in John 1 and John 21
  - iii. Some people identify Nathanael with Bartholomew in the Synoptic gospels
- c. This last chapter parallels many previous incidents in the gospel and Jesus uses them to teach the disciples about their commission

##### 2. The Disciples Returned to Fishing (3)

- a. The disciples were commanded to go to Galilee and wait for Jesus' appearance (Mark 16:7)
- b. Peter decides to return to fishing
  - i. Some think Peter was going back to his old profession
  - ii. Some think Peter was simply meeting the needs of his family
- c. The disciples decide to go with Peter

#### B. Jesus Provides Them with What they Need (4-6) – **NOTE: This section is reminiscent of the call of the disciples when they caught no fish and Jesus provided them with a catch. – That is when he called them to be fishers of men – here the miracle will be done again to show them they still need Christ's power to fish (for men)**

##### 1. Jesus appears at daybreak on the shore (4)

##### 2. Jesus provides them a multitude of fish (5-6)

- a. He calls and asks if they have caught anything
- b. He tells them where to catch the fish
- c. They obey his instruction and pull in a multitude of fish – so many they couldn't haul them in the boat

### II. Jesus Demonstrates the Disciples Usefulness (7-14) – **NOTE: This section echoes the meal where Jesus fed the 5000 with loaves and fish – This time the disciples themselves provide some of the fish for the meal (they were caught by the instruction and power of Christ)**

#### A. The Disciples Hasten Toward Jesus (7-8)

1. John recognizes Jesus and tells the others (7)
2. Simon Peter Jumps in the water to reach Jesus
3. The other disciples bring the boat to land by Jesus

B. Jesus Prepares a Meal With the Men's Fish (9-11)

1. Jesus greets them with a fire, fish, and bread
2. Jesus invites them to bring some of the fish they caught to the meal (10)
3. Simon hauls the net up on land. There were 153 fish – a multitude, provided by Christ but caught by the disciples.

C. Jesus and the Disciples Dine Together (12-14)

1. Jesus exhorts them to come dine with Him (12a)
2. They all knew that this truly was Jesus (12b)
3. Jesus took the bread and fish and gave them to the disciples

III. Jesus Demonstrates the Disciples Commission (15-23) – **NOTE: This section shows the restoration of Peter and the renewing of his commission. A few chapters earlier at daybreak, sitting around a coal fire, Peter denied Jesus three times. Here, at daybreak, sitting around a coal fire – Peter affirms his love for Jesus three times and is commissioned to follow Him.**

A. Jesus restores and commissions Peter (15-17)

1. Three times Jesus asks Peter if he truly loves Jesus
2. Three times Peter responds that He does
3. The third time Peter is grieved because he doesn't understand why Jesus keeps repeating Himself
4. Peter appeals to Jesus' omniscience – "you know all things – you know that I love you."
5. Each time Peter says He loves Jesus, he is commanded to feed (or tend) Jesus' sheep.
6. Here Peter's forgiveness from his previous denials is shown and his mission is plainly stated – "now you are ready, go and shepherd my people."

B. Jesus Explains the Disciple's Sacrifice of Service (18-23)

1. Peter is informed of the cost of his love (18-19)
  - a. Jesus warns Peter about his service and love
    - i. He is told that in the past he was independent and could do as he pleased
    - ii. Serving Christ (feeding sheep) means that he will be persecuted and eventually killed
  - b. Jesus warns Peter specifically about his death (19)
2. Peter is rebuked for questioning another's calling (20-22)
  - a. Peter asks about the fate of John (20-21)
    - i. After hearing the news of his death, Peter turned and saw John. He asks what will happen to him.
    - ii. Jesus tells Peter it's none of his business what John is called to do. He says, if I want him to live till the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, that's no concern of yours.
  - b. Some brethren have historically misunderstood this to mean John would live till Jesus' coming – Jesus was simply telling Peter to worry about his own service.

IV. Epilogue (24-25)

- A. John has given eyewitness testimony (24)
- B. John does not give every work Jesus ever did (25)