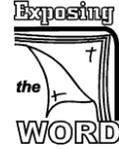




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# The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

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## 47- Restoration of the Fallen *John 21:1-17*

Jesus said, *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Luk 5:32* He came to restore the fallen. The fall took place as we well know in *Genesis 3:6* *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

God comes walking in the Garden and Adam and Eve are hiding. From this moment God began the work of redemption, of restoration of the fallen.

He tells us that we have been given this task as well. Notice *2 Corinthians 5:17-21* *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

### I- The Background:

The next event that John builds faith upon is the restoration of Peter. Remember what Peter said to Christ in *Matthew 26:33-35* *Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. 34 Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee,*

*That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. 35 Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.*

Now we know the story well of the events that unfolded in the night of Jesus arrest and trial. Sure Peter was in the garden and had been willing to fight for Jesus, but when he was asked at Caiaphas house if he knew Jesus he denied it three times. Luke records for us the denial. *Luke 22:61-62* *And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. 62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.*

Now I realize that Peter is an apostle of Chris and a close follower. He loved Jesus and truly wanted to serve him but his flesh kept getting in the way. Peter was one who needed restoration after he had fallen. Many times those who have been redeemed are in need of restoration as well.

### II- Fishing for Fish:

John picks up the story of Jesus days later on the sea shore. The scene unfolds on the Sea of Galilee or sea of Tiberias.

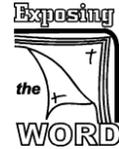
*Joh 21:1* *After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself. 2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.*



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Jesus had told these men to follow Him **...and I will make you to become fishers of men. Mark 1:17** Now Jesus has died but they know that He has rose again from the dead but they go back to their former occupation of fishing. They fished all night and had nothing to show for their efforts. Most see this as the providence of God preparing for the coming day's events.

It strikes me as ironic that Christ finds them now in the same circumstances that He first called them. They were fishing for fish instead of fishing for men. How many men have surrendered to follow Christ at salvation and then almost immediately gone back to their old habits represented here by fishing.

### III- Jesus Calls From the Shore:

After toiling all night and catching nothing the fishermen were tired and I am sure only wanted some rest. Then they hear a man call to them from the shore.

**Joh 21:4** *But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.*

The did not know that it was Jesus.

**Joh 21:5** *Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.*

HCSB says, "Men," *Jesus called to them, "you don't have any fish, do you?" "No," they answered.*

He knew they had been fruitless in their fishing. He next instructs them to cast their net on the right side of the ship.

**John 21:6** *And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.*

They followed the instructions of this stranger, remember they did not at this time recognize Jesus. His instructions and the

miracle of the fish that followed showed His knowledge of the depths and the fish therein.

### IV- Recognition of the Master:

This triggered a recognition of Jesus. Notice **Joh 21:7** *Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord.*

I have always loved the reaction of Peter. Remember he rushed into the empty tomb now notice what he does. **John 21:7b** *Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.*

The others were what might be called a little more sensible. They rowed to shore.

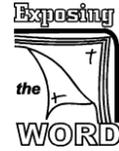
**Joh 21:8** *And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.*

They come to shore with a huge catch of fish in tow.

**Joh 21:9** *As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. 10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. 11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.*

Many see the difference from this miracle catch and the one at the beginning of Jesus public ministry as significant. Let us notice the first event again.

**Luke 5:4-7** *Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they*



*inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.*

There were some of the fish lost in the first catch because the nets broke. In this second one there is no fish lost. Many see this as that not one soul has been lost from the net that Christ has cast and drew in of the gospel.

**V- Picnic by the Campfire:**

John had already pointed out for us that there was a fire with fish cooking on it. *Joh 21:9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.*

Jesus next tells them to come join Him and eat; a picnic by the campfire, if you will. Have you ever wondered where Jesus got the fish?

*Joh 21:12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. 14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.*

They now did not have to ask who He was, they knew.

**VI- Restoration of the Fallen:**

In this context, at a relaxed meal early in the morning on the sea shore Jesus speaks to Peter.

We can only imagine the emotions running in Peter's heart. We see what he had said at the first miracle catch of fish month before in *Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.* He had also wept bitterly after he had

failed Christ on the night when he was being tried. Now he stands beside the fire and eats fish with the one he knows is the Messiah. He also must have been aware of his failures. The heart must have been racing.

*Joh 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.*

Then the second question. *Joh 21:16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

Then the third time the question is asked. *Joh 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

Why three times? Why three questions? There were three times that Peter denied Christ and three questions of restoration. Christ met Peter right where he failed and restored him.

Why was Peter grieved at the third question? Some say this cut to the quick of the flesh and brought the flood gates open for Peter to be restored. Beloved before someone, whether lost in sin or out of God will, can be restored they must come to the cold hard fact that they need restoration. Lost person do you know you need Jesus as Savior. Backslidden person, do you know that Jesus is saying to you, "Do you love me?" He and He alone can bring restoration to the needs of your soul.