

## Breakfast by the Sea *John 21*

The point of the account in Jn 21 is “What does the resurrection mean to you?” Does it mean “more than these?” (Jn 21:15). The context of this story is Peter’s nets, his boat, and his occupation, which would become his preoccupation, over and against the feeding of Messiah’s lambs. How much would Peter actually come to love Him – more than these — even these nets that caught the big catch?

For Peter discipleship had only one requirement (Jn 21:15-17), one preoccupation (Heb 13:17). And we may be disciples if we love Yahshua so deeply that we are willing to do what He asks (Jn 15:12-14). Jn 15:15 — Peter would now come to see clearly what Messiah was telling them here (and He told him this before He died and resurrected). Now in Jn 21:15-17 He was being more specific. Every time Peter answered our Master’s question concerning loving Him he was given the task that proved it.

If we love Him it leads us to serve others. Every disciple has his task (Eph 2:10). Our primary concern is to do the task set before us by our Master because we love Him (Jn 17:22; 1 Jn 3:17-18). Brotherly love is Heb 3:13 and 10:24. That is, disciples have eternal life in Messiah only. Lk 12:31-33 and 14:26-33 shows us what it costs

It costs everything we have — no more, no less. It costs ~~everything~~ *everything every day* (Lk 9:23; Heb 3:13; Acts 2:38-47 and 4:32-37).

Jn 21:1 — The most significant word exposing Peter and the others is the word “again.” So after Peter saw Him in His resurrected body the second time, verse 3 reveals something in Peter (and even the others), which if left unexposed would have caused Messiah’s death to be void of consequence (Isa 53:11). Or, to put it another way, would have kept it from having the proper consequential effect on people’s lives. It would have resulted in a religion like Christianity, whose members keep their jobs and occupations and go to church on Sundays. They do this without obeying His word (2 Ths 1:8), especially 1 Jn 3:18,23,24. So Jn 14:24 is the whole crux of this lesson our Master taught His disciples in Jn 21:1-19. Apart from it no one can have any assurance he has passed out of death and into life (1 Jn 3:14). 1 Jn 3:18 is the practical reality of this love.

What we are to learn as disciples in Jn 21 is that neither Peter nor any other disciple can love his Master and have any other occupation that forfeits his time and takes his energy away from shepherding and feeding (loving) the sheep of Yahshua. Ignoring or neglecting the sheep is hating them. Jn 3:23-24; 15:12-14 — To be “gone fishing” would take all Peter’s time and energy that he had to devote himself to the sheep of the good shepherd. Peter, like all other disciples, had to throw down and leave behind everything that bound him (or that binds them) to useless endeavors. These things rob the sheep of care they need to prosper and thrive in the Master’s sheepfold (Jn 10:11-16).

So now his Master Yahshua was going to the Father and He wanted His sheep to be loved and cared for while He was away. Only those who loved Him beyond everything else would be qualified as shepherds to His sheep. So Peter must now once again do as he had already done in Lk 5:4-11 in order to follow Him to the end (Mt 24:13).

We see in this account of Jn 21:1-15 that Mal 3:18 was at stake. Mt 6:31-33 would be the distinguishing feature *between* those who claim to know and serve Him and those who *actually* do and are His true disciples.

Either Peter (and the other disciples) would live like the nations and not become a light to them or live like the Holy Nation and be the light of the world (Isa 49:6; Mt 5:12-14; Phil 2:14; 1 Pet 2:12; 3:15; etc.). So Lk 14:26-33 and 12:31-33 is to love Him above *all things*. This love is proven by Lk 14:33 and Mk 8:34-35. No other thing could occupy Peter’s love except Him and to do His will. This was doing the works prepared for him.

Fishing was not one of those works that would prepare him for Rev 19:7-8. He might only end up as the man in Mt 22:11-13. To love his master required that he have no other pre-occupation *except* for the works He had prepared for him to do (Eph 2:10; 4:12). He was to feed His lambs. To feed His lambs and care for them would take all his time and energy.

So, what does the resurrection mean to us? We must see and understand that Jn 21:1-15 and Lk 5:10-11 was the reason Peter was asked Jn 21:15, “Do you love Me more than these?”

These nets in Jn 21:3,6,8,10, and 11 were the same nets as in Lk 5:11. Now Jn 21:14 says this was the *third*

*time* He had appeared to them or showed Himself to Peter and the others. So this was the reason for the question of verse 15. If he was “going fishing” as verse 3 says, how could he feed Messiah’s lambs the spiritual food and nourishment they needed? How could he care for them spiritually if he was “gone fishing” all day and sometimes all night?

**Preoccupied (Lk19:13 NKJV; KJV #4231)**

*Preoccupy – preoccupied – preoccupation*: all these mean, “already occupied,” so any other thing would be secondary and not available for us. “Sorry, Master,” would be all Peter could say, “my preference [any other occupation which preoccupied his thoughts and endeavors] is robbing the sheep of their true food and nourishment” (just as Zec 11:17).

“Peter, do you love Me more than these fishing boats and nets, more than this occupation of yours?” Everyone must do as Lk 14:33 says. No one can be, it says, for Lk 14:33 presents impossibility, of becoming a disciple unless he does what Peter and the others did to follow Messiah (Lk 5:11).

In Jn 21 here is Peter taking up his nets once more, distracting and diverting him from his true calling to follow Him. Jn 21:19 required death to his flesh — and even his own physical life if need be — to glorify Messiah. Lk 14:26-33 is the only way one can be a disciple and have eternal life in Messiah. There is no other way to follow Him except to obey Him (2 Ths 1:8) doing exactly what He says. The first Edah was founded on His word (Mt 28:19-20).

Acts 2:38-41 — These many other words were spoken so that they could be qualified to receive the Holy Spirit through repentance. This is what repentance meant in Acts 2:38 (as our Master was teaching Peter in Jn 21:15) that the cares of making a living (Mt 6:31-32) would from now on be renounced to seek first for the Kingdom and His righteousness, etc.

Jn 21:19; Acts 14:22 — Hard times and difficult days were ahead of Peter. Our Master Yahshua emphasized over and over again the necessity of loving Him by feeding His sheep and what it would require of him to be faithful — to throw down what would distract him from loving Him. The failure to love the sheep was the failure to love Him, and it meant forfeiting his discipleship. The love of one another is required of all those who had received eternal life from Him.

So what does the resurrection mean to us? More than Jn 21:3? (Jn 21:1-3). Jn 21:14 — Our Master Yahshua had showed Himself to His disciples twice already, but Peter said, “I’m going fishing,” and the other disciples went with him and they caught nothing. 1 Cor 16:22 — It is preposterous to even think that in view of the good news that one could have eternal life apart from loving Him (Jn 14:15,21-24). So, if He has revealed Himself to you it is because you love Him, which is proven by your obedience to His commandments (1 Jn 2:4).

So, if a person believes he knows Him but does not obey Him, but disobeys His word, it is contrary to nature, reason, or even common sense. It is irrational and absurd. The One who grants eternal life grants it to only those who obey Him (Acts 5:30-32; Heb 5:9; 2 Ths 1:8; Jn 3:36).