

The Gospel of John: The Gospel in Action (*John 21:1-23*)

Fish for Breakfast (21:1-14)

- Jesus appears to the disciples for a third time
 - This time, 7 of them are there, including Peter & John
- Peter and the others go out night fishing in the Sea of Galilee
 - After a fruitless night, they come to shore to see that an unrecognized Jesus is waiting for them
- Jesus asks if they have caught anything, and instructs them to throw their nets on the right side of the boat
 - This results in a massive haul of 153 fish, which miraculously doesn't tear the nets
- This prompts the beloved disciple (John) to realize that the man is Jesus, because this had happened before (Lk 5:1-11)
 - This realization leads Peter to jump out of the boat and start swimming to shore, leaving his friends to do with the abundance of fish
- When they get to shore, they find that Jesus has begun preparing a meal for them to share, telling them to add some of the newly-caught fish to the breakfast
 - Despite this act of fellowship, one disciple may have felt unsure of his place among the disciples: Peter

The Restoration (v. 15-19)

- After the meal, Jesus pulls Peter aside (v. 20)
- He asks Peter if he loves Jesus more than 'these'
 - Peter replies by proclaiming that Jesus knows that he does indeed love Him
 - Jesus then commands Him to feed His sheep
- Jesus repeats this question 3 times, once for each time Peter denied Him
 - By doing so, Jesus is demonstrating that Peter is both forgiven and reinstated as a true disciple who will help lead the Church in Jesus' mission
 - The command to feed/tend Jesus' sheep/lambs is for Peter to be an under-shepherd to the Good Shepherd
- Jesus then tells Peter that his promise to follow Him to the death will be fulfilled (Jn 13:37)
 - And even how that will happen: crucifixion
- Despite this, Jesus calls Peter to follow Him

The Rumor (v. 20-23)

- Peter asks Jesus what John's fate will be
- However, Jesus responds that John's fate is not Peter's concern; obedience to Jesus is
- Jesus' response later led to a rumor that John wouldn't die before Jesus' return, though that was not what He said
 - In fact, He promised the opposite (Mk 10:35-40)

So What?

- Jesus forgives and restores us when we seek Him. Are we seeking Him?
- Are we focusing on our own obedience to Jesus?

Meditation Verse: John 21:22

Next Week: John 20:30-31; 21:24-25