

## Honesty and Redemption

April 2, 2017

### John 21:1-14 NASB

1 After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way.

2 Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

3 Simon Peter said to them, "**I am going fishing.**" They said to him, "We will also come with you." **They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.**

4 But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

5 So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No."

6 **And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.**

7 Therefore **that disciple whom Jesus loved** said to Peter, "**It is the Lord.**" So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and **threw himself into the sea.**

8 But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish.

9 **So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread.**

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught."

11 Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, **full of large fish**, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.

12 Jesus said to them, "**Come and have breakfast.**" None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord.

13 **Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise.**

14 **This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.**

- **JESUS' PROVISION FOR INCOME** - "*Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch.*"

*Matthew 6:25 NASB*

25 "*For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"*

*Matthew 6:33 NASB*

33 "*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*"

- **JESUS' CARE FOR THE NATURAL NEEDS** - *Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."*

*Psalms 103:13-14 NASB*

13 *Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.*

14 *For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.*

1 Kings 19:3-8 NASB

3 And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

5 He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat."

6 Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again.

7 The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you."

8 So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

- **JESUS' SERVANT LEADERSHIP** - "Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise."

Matthew 20:25-28 NASB

25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them.

26 "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,

27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

John 13:4-5 NASB

4 [Jesus] got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

2 Corinthians 1:24 KJV

24 Not for that we have dominion (kyrieuō - to be lord of, have power over) over your faith, but are helpers (synergos - companion in work, co-laborer, fellow-worker) of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

"Take care when a leader begins repressing your freedom. If there is the lack of a servant's heart, of a teachable spirit, pride is in control. Be especially wary of one who seems to have all the answers." --Chuck Swindoll, Insight for Today, "Blind Spots"

**John 21:15-17 NASB**

15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love (25 agapaō - "For God so loved...") Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (95368 phileō - be a friend to, be fond of, have affection for) You." He said to him, "Tend (1006 bosko - feed, graze, pasture) My lambs."

"But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not." Mark 14:29 NASB

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (25 agapaō - "For God so loved...") Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (95368 phileō - be a friend to, be fond of, have affection for) You." He said to him, "Shepherd (4165 poimaino - tend a flock, keep sheep, rule, nourish, supply) My sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (95368 phileō - be a friend to, be fond of, have affection for) Me?" Peter was grieved (lypeō - to throw into sorrow, to offend, cause grief) because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (95368 phileō - be a friend to, be fond of, have affection for) You." Jesus said to him, "Tend (1006 bosko - feed, graze, pasture) My sheep."

- **Jesus dealt with Peter in the most kind and gentle way, without reproach or rebuke. Why didn't Jesus rebuke Peter?**

*Luke 22:61-62 NASB*

61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times."

62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

*Matthew 5:4 NASB*

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

*Romans 7:15 NASB*

15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

*Romans 7:17 NASB*

17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

*Thank God and rejoice every time you feel the deep stabbing wounds of a guilty conscience, for it is precisely that pain and mourning that secures for you forgiveness, cleansing and grace.*

*Be horrified when you no longer feel the pain of brokenness and contrition, for then you are spiritually dead.*

*Many professing Christians know nothing of repentance, because they are void of the very ingredient upon which repentance depends, a mourning heart.*

- **After his denial and failure, Peter gives the honest and realistic measure of his love for Jesus. Peter confesses that he loves the Lord, but could not bring himself to use the word for sacrificial love, but instead used the word of affection and fondness.**

*John 21:15 NASB*

"Yes, Lord; You know that I love (95368 phileō - be a friend to, be fond of, have affection for) You."

*Matthew 26:33-35 NASB*

33 But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away."

34 Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.

- **Jesus' 3 challenge questions match Peter's 3 denials (in number). Jesus knows each and every fault and sin. He is not only able, but wants to use us anyway.**

Acts 2:14 NASB

14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven [NASB FN - "being put forth as spokesmen"], raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.

- "...taking his stand with the eleven..." Peter was not ostracized, shunned or disciplined.
- "...raised his voice and declared..." Peter became the spokesman of the infant Church.

Judges 16:28-30 NASB

28 Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."

29 Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left.

30 And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people [3,000] who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life.

"Failures are only temporary tests to prepare us for permanent triumphs." Chuck Swindoll

- **God can use broken people who are honest, but not hypocrites. Peter answered the questions honestly, without hypocrisy, pretence or guile.**

1 John 1:7-8 NASB

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

- **By asking in front of the other disciples, Jesus was not shaming but endorsing and restoring Peter to the others. Three times Jesus commissions Peter into the ministry.**

James 5:16 NASB

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

1 Peter 4:8 NASB

8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

- **In the 3rd challenge question, Jesus meets Peter where Peter is, without rebuke or rejection.**

John 21:17

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love (95368 phileō - be a friend to, be fond of, have affection for) Me?" Peter was grieved (lypeō - to throw into sorrow, to offend, cause grief) because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (95368

phileō - be a friend to, be fond of, have affection for) You." **Jesus said to him, "Tend** (1006 bosko - feed, graze, pasture) **My sheep.**

### **Sufficient Grace**

*Suffering is a delicate subject. It's not easy to address because I realize I'm writing to people who have known a depth of suffering to which I have never gone. In no way do I wish to give the impression that I am a model of how to go through it. **To be honest with you, I fail in my responses to adversity more than I succeed.** It's a lot easier to write a chapter on it than it is to model those things that look good in print. **Along with the occasional pity parties I throw for myself, my heart is occasionally broken, and my spirit takes a tumble. So if that is your experience today, I can identify with that.***

*My desire is for you and me, together, to claim grace and cultivate grit in the midst of our suffering--like Paul. And in the process to wean ourselves from the rabid pursuit of happiness so prevalent in our culture. Happiness is a byproduct of contentment. Once Paul discovered that, he lived it. **I'm not fully there yet.** Most likely, neither are you. And so, we press on together, growing and learning, reminding ourselves that He must increase, and we must decrease.*

*Contentment does not require comfort. You can have it in even dire circumstances.*

-- Chuck Swindoll, Today's Insight, March 21, 2017