

CHAPTER

21

In this, the final chapter of John's Gospel, we find the account of Christ's third appearance, when He ate bread and fish with the disciples on the lakeshore. Last of all was His charge to Peter and a prophecy of Peter's martyrdom. Read the entire chapter.

Verses 1 through 3. Jesus appeared to His disciples the third time and this is how it came about. "Peter decided to go fishing and the rest of the disciples, Thomas--called Didymus meaning "the Twin," Nathaniel, and my brother James and I (John) decided to go with him. There were two others making seven in all. We went fishing but caught nothing."

422. Peter, James, and John went _____ but caught _____.

Verses 4 through 6. They fished all night, and in the morning they saw a man standing on the shore but did not recognize that it was Jesus. Jesus called out to them, "Children, do you have anything to eat." They answered, "No." He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will get plenty." They did that and were hardly able to draw the net in for the large number of fish.

423. The disciples had fished all night and caught _____ but when Jesus told them to cast the net on the right side of the boat, they caught a _____ of fish.

Verses 7 through 9. Then John said to Peter, "It is the Lord." Peter slipped on his cloak, for he was stripped to the waist, jumped into the sea, and swam ashore. The other disciples came in a small boat, dragging the net full of fish. When they reached shore, they saw a small fire of coals with bread and fish roasting thereon.

424. When Peter heard that it was the _____, he slipped on his cloak and swam ashore. The other disciples came in a small boat, dragging the net full of _____.

Verses 10 and 11. Why did Peter go fishing when he knew that his Lord was resurrected? One can only surmise that he was an impetuous person and could not stand inactivity. Why did Jesus have breakfast prepared for the fishermen? Perhaps it was a mild rebuke, "You do not need to be concerned about material things if you follow me." Nevertheless, they had gone fishing, caught a net full of fish, and these must not be wasted. "Bring the fish," said Jesus, and Peter dragged to land the net containing 153 large fish, and yet the net was not broken.

425. True or False? Jesus told them to throw away the fish they had caught.

Verse 12. "Come to breakfast," said Jesus, and none of the disciples asked, "Who are you?" Though they were a little hesitant, most knew that it was the Lord.

426. Jesus invited them to come and eat. Some of them were a little doubtful, but most knew that it was the _____.

Verses 13 and 14. Jesus, again taking the part of a servant, served them with bread and fish. This was the third time after His resurrection that Jesus appeared to His disciples.

427. This instance, in which Jesus furnished the disciples with a good catch of fish and then _____ them breakfast, was the _____ time that Jesus had appeared to His disciples after the resurrection.

Verses 15 through 17. The student should understand that there are three words in the Greek language for different degrees of love, which in the King James Version of the Bible, are translated by the one English word, **love**. Therefore in the K.J. version, we miss the real point of this conversation between Jesus and Peter. We will use a paraphrase that will bring out the true meaning of this conversation. After they had finished eating and were still sitting about the fire, Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Simon, do you love me more than these?" Peter said, "Yes Lord, you know I am very fond of you." Jesus replies, "Feed My lambs." Jesus said a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you really love Me?" Peter replied, "Yes Lord, you know that I am very fond of you." Jesus replied, "Feed My sheep." The third time Jesus says, "Simon, son of John, are you really fond of Me?" Peter was grieved that Jesus had asked him the third time and said, "Lord, you know everything, you know I am really fond of you." Jesus replied, "Feed My sheep." Just what did Jesus mean in asking Simon Peter, "Do you love Me more than these?" More than these others love Me, more than you love fish and the fishing business? Commentators differ and you will have to make your own decision. I think what Jesus was really saying was, "Simon Peter, are you willing to give Me first place in you life?" That our Lord repeated the question three times brought remorse to the heart of Peter as it reminded him that he had denied his Lord three times. Why did Peter not use the word "agapan," the strong word for love? Probably because he did not feel worthy to use the same word Jesus used, for he knew that Jesus' love was a perfect love.

428. Jesus asked Peter _____ times, "Do you love Me?" The first two times He used the strong word for love (agapan), but the third time He used the _____ that Peter used when he answered, "Yes I am very fond of you." After the reply, Jesus charged him with a task, each time in slightly different terms; "Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, feed My sheep.

Verse 18. Jesus prophesied what would happen to Peter in his later years. He said, "When you were young, you dressed yourself as you pleased and you went where you pleased, but in your old age, you will stretch out your hands and someone will bind them and take you where you do not wish to go."

429. Jesus told Peter that when he was young he could do as he _____, but when he had grown old, his hands would be bound and he would be _____ where he did not wish.

Verse 19. The author wrote that Jesus said this to point out the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. A martyr's death does not seem so terrible when we remember that God is glorified in it.

430. Jesus signified that Peter would die a _____ death, but in that death, he would glorify God.

Verses 20 through 22. Peter, after hearing what his own fate would be, wished to know what would happen to John, the disciple whom Jesus loved. Jesus replied, "If it is My will that he lives until I come again, that does not concern you. You must follow Me." There is a good lesson for all of us. We must be concerned for our fellow men that they have the opportunity to hear the Gospel message, but what happens to them, is in the hand of God. That we follow Christ and be faithful to Him, is our chief concern.

431. Jesus told Peter that what happened to John was none of Peter's _____; to _____ Jesus must be his chief concern.

Verse 23. Many people misunderstood this saying and the belief spread abroad among the believers that John would not die but would be alive when Jesus returns, but this is not what Jesus said. However, it is not surprising that such a rumor would get started, for everyone is eager to tell exciting news, and leaving the small word "if" out of a statement turns a surmise into a certainty.

432. The conditional statement that Jesus made about how John's last days would end, soon became the statement that John would be _____ when Jesus returned.

Verses 24 and 25. The writer of this Gospel said that he was able to witness to the truth of those things he had written, and all the disciples knew that this testimony was true. He added that if all the things which Jesus did and said were written down, the whole world would hardly be able to contain the books that would be written. This is a rather extravagant statement, but what he was saying is that it would be impossible to put down on paper all that Jesus taught and everything He did.

433. True or False? The writer testified that what he had written was true and all the disciples agreed to this, and even so, all things that Jesus said and did were not written down for it would be almost impossible to do this.

ANSWERS:

422. Fishing, nothing

423. Nothing, large number

424. Lord, fish

425. False

426. Lord

427. Served, third

428. Three, weaker word

429. Pleased, led

430. Martyr's

431. Concern, follow

432. Alive

433. True

NOTE: Take Test 3 which is located on the Gospel of John download page.