

JOHN 21:1-14

LESSON: APPEARANCE OF THE RISEN LORD — April 8, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 20:24-25 Thomas (*Aramaic for twin*), one of the twelve disciples called Didymus (*his Greek name*) had not been with the disciples when Jesus first appeared to them. He had staunchly refused to believe that Jesus had actually risen. Yes, the one who had been with and walked with Jesus but he did not really know (believe) Jesus. When the others told him that they had seen Jesus, he replied, "**Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.**" Why did the disciples think that they could convince Thomas, when he couldn't even take Jesus at His Word? Are we believing Jesus at His Word, that we will be with Him when we die? Thomas had withdrawn from the disciples. Sometimes death will do that to a person; have you doubting even as a believer; have you removing yourself from others. But as a believer in Christ, we are to cast every care upon Him, for He cares for us. We are able to walk through the shadow of death because of Christ, for He will be with us. The thing that's working for our good is Christ.

Chapter 20:26-27 Now, eight days later Thomas is with the disciples behind closed and locked doors, and Jesus immediately appears, not at the door, but in the midst of the room speaking Peace to them where all of them could see Him. Jesus knows every man's heart and so He speaks directly to Thomas, that he be not faithless any longer. To be faithless is to be Christless, "*without Christ, having no hope, and without God in the world*" (Eph.2:12). Jesus tells him to reach in and put his finger into His hand, and put his hand into His side, the same words Thomas had demanded.

Chapter 20:28-29 And after doing this, Thomas spoke a strong confession of faith—"My Lord and my God!" He now knew five things:

1. That Jesus was truly the risen lord.
2. That Jesus is both Lord and God, the Sovereign majesty of the universe.
3. That Jesus is the One who has come to truly reveal God; He is the mediator between God and man.
4. That Jesus accepts no half-way commitment.
5. That Jesus expected an open and public confession of Him as Lord and God.

Some people think they would believe Jesus if they could see a definite sign or miracle, but Jesus tells Thomas and all of us that we are blessed if we can believe without seeing. When a man truly sees what Jesus has done for him, or when a man is rebuked by the Spirit of Christ, he must cease his unbelief, he must turn to Christ, for *the Lord's Spirit will not always strive with men.*

Chapter 20:30-31 We find out that John did not include many other signs Jesus did in the presence of the disciples to be written in the Book. But, we do know Jesus did them openly and publicly because it says "**in the presence of his disciples.**" The greatest sign John purposely selected is the sign of the resurrection. It was selected to lead men to "**believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that**

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through believing, they might have life through his Name." The great result is life through Jesus' Name!

LESSON: I. GATHERING AFTER CHRIST'S RESURRECTION JOHN 21:1-3a

21:1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself. After the unbelief of Thomas and the appearance of Jesus before all the disciples, Jesus showed Himself again to them, this time at the Sea of Tiberias which is the Sea of Galilee where many of Jesus' miracles took place.

21:2 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. There are seven of the disciples who have gathered together at the Sea of Tiberias whose names were Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, the sons of Zebedee are named James and John, and then there are two other unnamed disciples.

21:3a Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. Simon Peter speaks out and tells all of them that he's going fishing. And of course by them being fishermen, they all wanted to also go.

II. FISHING ON THE SEA JOHN 21:3b-8

21:3b ...They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. It seems like at Peter's word they immediately got on the ship. They fished at night because that was the best time to catch fish, but that night they still had not caught anything.

21:4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Now its morning and Jesus is standing on the shore, but somehow the disciples didn't know that it was He. Suddenly and unexpectedly His bodily presence was standing on the shore. So, therefore they saw a person standing on the seashore and thought nothing of it. They didn't recognize it was Jesus.

21:5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. So, Jesus approaches them first by asking them if they had any meat, and they answered, No.

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. The disciples considered the person on the shore speaking to them to be a stranger. But, Jesus tells the disciples to cast their net on the right side of the ship, and that they would find fish. However, it was something compelling about the stranger's voice that really caused them to obey without any objection. And they did just that, and could hardly draw in the net because of the weight of the fish. There were so many fish in the net.

21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. 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. Now, John finally recognizes Jesus and tells Peter, "It is the Lord." And when Peter hears this, he readily girts his fisher's coat (tunic), meaning clothing himself for he was naked; stripped to the waist, and he jumped into the sea to swim to the shore.

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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. While Peter swims to the shore, the other disciples came in a small ship because they weren't far from land and they were dragging the net with fish.

III. MEETING JESUS ON THE SHORE JOHN 21:9-14

21:9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. We know Peter had already reached Jesus, and the other disciples came afterwards onto land seeing a fire of coals with fish laid on it, and bread to eat. Jesus had laid out a feast for them. He was not a figment of their imagination, not a vision, and not a spirit. But, He was in a body just like the body they had always known.

21:10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. Jesus tells them to bring some of the fish they had caught. He is proving that He could see, speak, hear, and feel, meaning he's real and Alive, and instructing them to gather in some fish.

21:11 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. Jesus' instruction was obeyed. Peter went out and dragged the net to land, that was full of fish, and even to the point of counting the fish, discovering it held 153 fish. As many fish as it was, the net was not broken.

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. Jesus invited them to come and dine with Him, yet no one dared ask Him who He was. Of course, they knew it was the Lord. He was the One who had walked with them and lived with them. The only difference being that He had risen from the dead in a perfected and glorified body.

21:13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. Jesus went around serving the bread and the fish.

21:14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. Jesus has now appeared before the disciples for the third time since He had risen from the dead.

SUMMARY:

¹Jesus now appears at the Sea of Galilee. Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James, John and two other unnamed disciples were together. Peter, the man of action, said he was going fishing and the other disciples decided to go too (**21:1-3a**).

They went forth and entered the ship immediately, and that night they fished but caught nothing.

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-need-for-full-obedience/>
www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html

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No doubt in "their" fishing, they were sincere and worked hard but there were no results. Jesus stood on the shore but they didn't know it was Jesus. They didn't have any fish to eat. But, that morning Jesus tells the disciples to cast their net on the right side of the ship and they would find fish. They obeyed and now the result was a multitude of fish. Notice the difference when they followed Jesus' direction? They learned that it pays to obey. They caught a multitude of fish. It was interesting to note that John was the first to realize that the stranger on the shore was the Lord Jesus, and he told Peter. Peter girted his coat and jumped into the water to get to shore to see Jesus. The other disciples came in a small ship because they weren't far from land and they were dragging the net with fish. **(21:3b-8).**

They see a fire of coals with fish laid on it, and bread to eat. Jesus tells them to bring some of the fish they had caught, and on the beach He had laid out a feast preparing breakfast for His disciples. Peter obeyed and began to drag the net to land, full of fish, even to the point of discovering that the net held 153 fish, and the net was not broken. They ate breakfast with the risen Lord, not even asking who He was! Jesus went around serving the bread and the fish. This was the third time that Jesus appeared to his disciples after being risen from the dead **(21:9-14).**