



The Book of John

Session 16: John 21:1-19

Today we will look at Peter's re-instatement with Jesus. The man who said he would never deny Christ, yet he fell three times during Jesus's trial before the religious leaders.

Our goals this week:

- To get a glimpse of why Peter and the disciples returned to fishing.
- To know what it meant to catch 153 large fish.
- To see why Jesus asked Peter "Do you love me?"

Question: Describe your level of love towards Jesus. Is it more like love towards a friend, or is it love that comes from the heart?

Read John 21:1-6

Only 7 of the disciples are named in John 21. They are back on the Sea of Galilee, the place where they learned how to make a living by fishing on the sea.

Question: Why do you think Peter went back to fishing? What do you go back to when things have been hard in your life?

They fish all night with no success. What a frustrating night it must have been. It wasn't like they had never fished before. They knew the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus calls out from the bank, "Hey, caught any fish yet?" All yelled back, "No". They still don't know who he is yet. Jesus gives more instructions. "Throw your net on the right side of the boat". A miracle happens.

Question: When Jesus first meets Peter in Matt. 4:18-20 he finds Peter fishing. It was his trade and Jesus wanted Peter to stop fishing for fish but for people. How is Jesus using you right where you work? Are you fishing or just working?

Read John 21:7-9

John tells Peter “It’s the Lord!” Peter doesn’t wait for the catch or his friends. He jumps head-first into the water, swimming the distance of a football field.

Question: John was deeper in his love for Jesus than the other disciples. He recognized His Voice. What voice are you listening to? How do you know it’s the Holy Spirit speaking and not an outside voice?

We again see Peter’s impulsiveness in leaving the others behind. He swims to the shore dripping wet, standing by a charcoal fire.

Question: Think about a time in your life in which you have this “Jesus moment” encounter. What do you experience by the love of Jesus?

Read John 21:10-14

Jesus knew they were tired and hungry. He met their needs with 153 large fish had a charcoal fire ready. Bread was baking and fish were cooking. He met their physical need first and then their spiritual need that once again he was alive!

Question: Name a time in your life when Jesus met a physical need in your life. How did it open your heart to receive spiritually?

Read John 21:15-17

Jesus asks Peter 3 times, “Do you love me?” It wasn’t to rebuke Peter but to help Peter understand that his love for Christ needed to go deeper.

Question: Agape love isn’t just a feeling. It’s motivated by action. It’s a sacrificial love even to death (see Ephesians 5:1-2). How are you being motivated to love Jesus in your actions?

Peter was being restored to his apostleship and in his leadership with people (the church).

Question: How is Jesus restoring you to be his true disciple? To becoming the man you’ve been called to be?

Read John 21:18-19

Three years have now passed, yet Jesus is there with Peter by the Sea of Galilee reminding Peter of the same thing, "Follow me". Jesus continues to show Peter patience and comforts him in his failure.

Question: We, like Peter, need Christ's patience and forgiveness in our lives. How is Jesus fulfilling this action with love in your life?

Your assignment: Put "Agape love" into action. With Jesus, your spouse, your children, your neighbor, and even with your enemies.

Read for the summer: 1 Kings 17 through 2 Kings 13 - The Lives of Elijah and Elisha.

Vital Men Kickoff: We return to The Well in Pella on Sept. 11, 2019, with guest-speaker Marty Schmidt, the Bridge Praise Band and Barbeque!

Continue Reading: Vital Men Devotions on vitalministries.org. Watch Vital Ministries web page for upcoming events.

Vital Men's motorcycle ride: May 31 – June 2

Vital couples ride: June 28 – July 1