

Peter is Restored

John 21 v 1-19

Context:

The disciples must have experienced a roller-coaster of emotions over the period we call Holy Week and Easter. From elation on Palm Sunday to heartbreak on Good Friday to inexpressible joy on Easter Sunday! The glorious resurrection of Jesus didn't lead to total and immediate transformation for the disciples. There was still much for them all to reflect on and, for some of them, a few skeletons in the cupboard to bring out and deal with, as we will see in today's study.

Observation:

1. Where did Jesus appear in v 1?
2. Who was present according to v 2?
3. What did Peter decide to do and what was the outcome (v 3)?
4. Who did they see on the shore early in the morning (v 4)?
5. What did he ask them in v 5 and what did he tell them to do in v 6?
6. What was the result (v6b)?
7. Who recognised that it was Jesus and what did Peter do when he heard this (v7)?
8. What did the other disciples do (v 8)?
9. What did they find when they reached the shore (v 9)?
10. What did Jesus tell them to do (v 10)?
11. How many fish had they caught (v 11)?
12. What did Jesus invite them to do in v 12 and what did the disciples not have the courage to ask him and why?
13. Who hosted this breakfast (v 13)?
14. What did Jesus ask Peter after breakfast (v 15), how did he reply and what instruction did he then give him?
15. What did Jesus ask him the second time (v 16), how did Peter respond and what instruction did he receive?
16. How did Peter feel when Jesus asked his third question (v 17) and what was his reply?
17. What does Jesus then tell him in v 17b-18?
18. What was the significance of Jesus' words in v 18-19 and what was his final instruction to Peter?

Meaning:

1. Why do you think Peter suggested going fishing and what might this indicate about his state of mind (v 3)?
2. When had they previously experienced the exact same miracle as the one described in v 3-6 and why do you think Jesus deliberately chose to re-enact this miracle at this particular moment? [See Luke 5 v 1-11 for clues].

3. How was Peter's behaviour in v 7 typical of him? Can you think of any other examples of Peter's impetuosity?
4. How does it make you feel to know Jesus cared for the disciples' physical needs by preparing breakfast? Can you think of any other occasions when Jesus did this kind of thing?
5. Who are the '*these*' Jesus mentions in v 15? What is Jesus really asking Peter here?
6. Why do you think Peter was so hurt in v 17? Why do you think Jesus asks the same question three times?
7. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus recommissioned Peter for ministry, to lead and care for his flock, even though Peter had let Jesus down so badly in the very recent past?
8. Do you think Jesus' words in v 18-19 would have been an encouragement to Peter or a discouragement? Explain your view.

Application:

1. Have you ever felt that you have let Jesus down? How did you feel and what helped to change your feelings? How is this passage an encouragement to you?
2. How should the way Jesus treated Peter serve as a model or example for the way we should treat those who let *us* down? What are the challenges and barriers to following Jesus' example here and how can they be overcome?
3. Jesus told Peter he would one day demonstrate his love for Jesus by dying as a martyr – he wouldn't lose his nerve as he did on the night before Jesus died. In what ways is our love for Jesus costly? What sacrifices does being committed to Jesus bring?

Pray:

- Pray that our love for Jesus would be so strong that we are prepared to pay any cost.
- Thank God for second chances.