

Subject: A Blessed Visit from the Risen Lord

Scripture: John 21:1-14

In 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 we see that after His resurrection Christ appeared to many believers. All of these appearances as the risen Lord were only to believers with one exception, His appearance to the apostle Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). Every time Christ appeared as the risen Lord, He came to bless.

1. The revelation of Christ (Jn. 21:1-14)

Vs. 1 – Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee).

Vs. 14 – This was now the third time that Jesus showed himself to his disciples.

Christ revealed himself to the disciples for a couple of reasons: 1) He proved that He had risen from the dead and was alive as He promised; and 2) He was concerned about them and came to minister to them, especially Peter. Two things happened that day. First, there was a miracle on the water, and second, there was a meal on the shore. Christ used the miracle and the meal to remind Peter of some important things.

- Peter remembered another time on the sea

Luke 5:3-6 ³ And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. ⁴ Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch. ⁵ And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. ⁶ And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

- Peter remembered another time by the fire

John 18:17-18 ¹⁷ Then saith the servant girl that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not. ¹⁸ And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.

John 18:25-27 ²⁵ And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not. ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him? ²⁷ Peter then denied again: and immediately the rooster crowed.

2. The restoration of Peter (Jn. 21:15-17)

After the meal Christ had a conversation with Peter. He asked Peter a question three times, and each time after Peter answered the question, Christ gave Peter a command. Why three questions, three answers, and three commands? It was because Peter had denied Christ three times, this was the way Christ chose to restore Peter and rekindle his desire for ministry.

3. The reminder for all disciples (Jn. 21:18-22)

As Christ continued his conversation with Peter, He reminded him about the one priority in life for all disciples, and that is to follow Christ. Disciples are followers of the Master. This is our duty and privilege in life. It is not an easy life. Following Christ means dying to self and our old way of life. *Matthew 16:24* Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

In verse 18, Christ had a personal word for Peter about his death. As a young man Peter was free to go where he wanted to go, but when he was older, he would be bound and crucified. He would die as a martyr for Christ, and his death would glorify God. This is a reminder that we can glorify God in life and in death. Then Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me." Peter turned and saw John following along, and he asks, "Lord, what shall this man do?" To which Jesus replied, "If he lives until I come again, what concern is that to you. Follow me." Christ commands us to follow Him, no matter what others do.

This visit of the risen Lord was a great blessing then and it will be a great blessing now if we make a personal application to our own lives:

- All pastors have a duty to feed Christ's sheep

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

1 Peter 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you...

- All disciples have a duty to follow Christ the Good Shepherd

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.