

Jesus Is Alive!

(And He's Really Working Hard on Peter.)

John 21:1 - Acts 2:16

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Key Names: "Jesus" & "Peter"

John 21:1-3 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.”

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel:....

Jesus has risen from the dead!

John 21:1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” They answered Him, “No.” 6 And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

This all seems very familiar.

“We have been here before!”

Luke 5:4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” 5 But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” 6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, **and their net was breaking**. 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” 11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Jesus is bringing Peter and all of His disciples back to the beginning.

“Peter, it is the Lord!”

John 21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. 9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.”

Our Lord does not need what we have to offer, but He receives it anyway because we need to give what we have.

The symbolism is obvious.

John 21:11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, **the net was not broken.**

1Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that **your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

John 21:12 Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord. **13** Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. **14** This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

This breakfast meeting is going to focus on Peter.

Peter had denied even knowing Jesus.

John 18:17 Then the servant girl ...said to Peter, “You are not also one of this Man’s disciples, are you?” He said, **“I am not.”**

John 18:25 ...“You are not also one of His disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, **“I am not!”**

John 18:26 ...“Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” 27 **Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.**

John 13:37-38 Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.” 38 Jesus answered him, “Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, **the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.**

“Peter, do you love me?”

John 21:15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (agape) Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileo) You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” 16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (agape) Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileo) You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (phileo) Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love (phileo) Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (phileo) You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.

- **In Greek “agape love” is the self-sacrificing way that God loves us.**
- **“Phileo love” is brotherly love. It a reciprocal kind of love.**
- **Peter finally realizes he cannot love Jesus the way Jesus loves him.**

None the less, Jesus commands Peter to feed and tend His flock.

“Peter, spent his life obeying Jesus.”

1Pet. 5:1-4 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 **Shepherd the flock of God** which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Peter encourages all elders to serve as shepherds, feeding and caring for those entrusted to them by God.

Peter will get to love Jesus with “agape love.”

John 21:18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”

Peter would eventually be arrested in Rome and executed in a martyr's death by being crucified upside down (at his own request.)

“But Lord, what about John?”

John 21:20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” 21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?”

John 21:22 Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.”

● **God’s will is not the same for all of His people. Peter will die from violence. John will die of old age. Both will bring glory to God by the way they live and the way they die.**

John 21:23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?”

John had to clarify what Jesus had actually said.

John was the last apostle to die.

Rev. 1:9-11 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

According to church tradition, John died of natural causes in 100AD in Ephesus after having been banished for a time to the Isle of Patmos during the persecution of Emperor Domitian.

John is telling us the truth.

John 21:24 This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. 25 And there are also many other things that Jesus, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

John 20:30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John provides us with all the evidence we need to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Peter's Story Continues in Acts.

Acts 1:1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during **forty days** and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Jesus continued to appear to His apostles, and to other witnesses, proving that He was in fact alive and teaching them concerning the kingdom of God.

“Don’t do anything until the Holy Spirit arrives.”

Acts 1:4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father**, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**” 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But **you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The emphasis is on waiting to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit which would impart power on all the apostles to be His witnesses.

“With you” vs. “In you”

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you.**

Luke 3:16 John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

Acts 1:4 ...He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father**, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for **John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**”

This baptism with the Holy Spirit was crucial to God’s purposes.

The Ascension of Christ

Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

- **When Jesus ascended into heaven, it would be just 10 more days before the Day of Pentecost (i.e. 7 Sabbaths, plus 1 day from the Passover Sabbath when Jesus was sacrificed (see Lev. 23:15).**
- **Pentecost Sunday is when the Holy Spirit would be poured out.**

All they had to do was wait. Did Peter wait? No. He did not wait.

The disciples went back to the upper room to do everything but obey.

Acts 1:12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

“Praying is good, but obedience to Jesus is better.”

Peter just could not wait.

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, 16 “Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; 17 for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.”

Acts 1:20 “For it is written in the Book of Psalms: “Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it’; and, ‘Let another take his office.’

Acts 1:21 “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

“Sound’s great Peter. So how should we go about it?”

The First Chapter of Acts looks like an example of what the church would be like without the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:23 And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen 25 to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” 26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

- **There was no “None of the Above” option on the dice that day.**
- **It’s a bit like Abraham having Ishmael with his wife’s handmaiden just before Sarah gave birth to Isaac, the child of promise.**

Matthias was a good man, but he has never been heard from again.

Then the Holy Spirit came.

Acts 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, ... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ... 12 So [the crowds] were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” 13 Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day (i.e. 9AM). 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel...

From this point on we see in Peter only the anointing, the unction, the leadership and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as Peter began to preach, to write, to suffer, and to die for the glory of God.

A Parting Word From Peter

1Pet. 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Peter clearly learned his lesson, and now he encourages us to learn from his example.

Oh, and Mathias sends his greetings.

Examine Yourself

2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- **Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ who died for you?**
- **Do you trust in Him enough to actually obey Him by living for Him?**
- **How often do you find yourself talking to Him in prayer when no one else is around? Studying the Bible just to feed your own soul? Obeying Him in ways that cost you something, when no one else will know? Telling others about Him because you care about where they will go when they die? These are evidences that you really believe in your heart.**

Do you see enough evidence for you to be certain you are saved?

If not, ask Jesus to save you now!