

April 16, 2023

“Jesus Cooks Breakfast”  
Lesson 3

John 21:1-14

**Intro**

The account in today’s passage shows Jesus’ love and concern for His disciples. He goes to where they are and gives both Himself and them another opportunity to spend time together. This is exactly what we also like to do. We always want to spend as much time with our loved ones, family and friends, as we can. Any opportunity to be with them, even if it’s not lengthy, is always a time of great happiness.

**Read John 21:1-14**

## 1. vs. 1: The beginning of this account

Jesus meets again with His disciples—more about this “again” later

## 2. vs. 2: This verse gives the names of several of the disciples

Simon Peter: both names are used here, and more often in John than in other gospels

His name comes first, likely because he is the unofficial leader of the group

Thomas (Didymus): Thomas is his Aramaic name, Didymus (twin) a Greek name

Only John’s gospel tells more about Thomas than that he was an apostle

See John 11:8-16 and 20:24-29

Nathanael: One of Jesus’ earliest disciples (see John 1:45)

John names him as a disciple, while the other gospels don’t

He is referred to as being from Cana

Jesus performed His first two miracles in Cana

It could also be there to distinguish this Nathanael from another one

The sons of Zebedee: This is John and his brother James (see Matt. 4:21)

John chooses not to identify himself and his brother by name here

Two other disciples: Though speculation, the consensus is these are Philip and Andrew

Andrew is Simon Peter’s brother

The two were closely connected to Galilee, where this story takes place

## 3. vs. 3: Peter says he’s going fishing, and the others decide to join him

Peter, James, and John were all fishermen before Jesus called them

They are fishing in Galilee, where Jesus said he would meet them (Matt. 26 and 28)

Jesus has already met with them twice in the locked room

Jesus hadn’t told them what their role would be once He arose

Jesus didn’t tell them what to do while they waited for Him to come to Galilee

Rather than sit idly, they choose to go fishing

All of these are strong indicators that the disciples hadn’t given up their discipleship

## 4. vs. 4: It’s early morning, Jesus is standing on the shore, but the disciples don’t recognize Him

They spent 3 years with Him, and have seen Him twice since He resurrected

But Mary and the disciples to Emmaus didn’t recognize Him right away either

A more likely reason seems to be the light  
Early morning could be pre-dawn, before the sun is all the way up  
There's light to see, but not enough to distinguish things far off  
Jesus is on the shore, and they are still in their boat  
Also, they are tired after being out all night

5. vs. 5: Jesus asks them if they have caught anything, and they answer "No"  
The word He calls them is "Friends" in some texts, "children" in others  
The word "children" is a more literal / accurate translation  
It's a term of endearment from a teacher to a student  
Jesus puts Himself in the position of a benevolent authority and caring mentor
6. vs. 6: Jesus tells them to try again; when they obey, they catch more fish than they can haul in  
This incident is the same as Luke 5:1-11  
Jesus tells Peter to do this same thing, and the nets begin to break  
The disciples likely remember this previous event when Jesus says nearly the same words  
The result both times is an overwhelmingly large catch
7. vs. 7: John, "the disciple whom Jesus loved" tells Peter "It is the Lord!"  
This recognition likely comes from connecting this event to the one in Luke 5  
It also sounds similar to the disciples from Emmaus suddenly realizing it was Jesus  
Simon Peter's reaction shows his understanding  
He jumps out and swims to shore, not even waiting for the boat to get there
8. vs. 8: The boat comes to shore with the other disciples and the large catch of fish  
The Greek indicates that the boat was small  
This would make it go slower to shore with so many fish they caught
9. vs. 9: Two elements here bring back memories of previous events with Jesus  
The burning coals were also present at the fire where Peter denied Jesus  
In next week's passage, we will see Jesus reaffirm Peter's worth and mission  
  
The fire has fish cooking, and they also see some bread  
This is reminiscent of the feeding of the 5000 in John 6  
That meal consisted of fish and bread borrowed from a boy  
Here Jesus has procured the food Himself
10. vs. 10-11: They are told to bring "some of the fish you have just caught"  
When Jesus first called them (Matt. 4), they dropped their nets and left  
This time seems to be an invitation to celebrate what Jesus has provided  
  
John records that 153 fish were caught  
Some try to find mystical significance in that number  
It seems better to acknowledge God's blessing on those who obey Him  
It also shows His providing for them  
They could sell the extra fish and provide for themselves and others  
Also, their nets did not tear despite so many fish—God's care for them

11. vs. 12: Jesus' request that they eat with Him confirms what they know  
When people ate with Him, they knew Him for who He was (see Luke 24)  
The repetition of the fish/bread meal also verifies His identity for them
12. vs. 13: This looks similar to the Last Supper, and the institution of the Lord's Supper (Mark 14)  
This is not exactly the same, however  
He is sharing a meal with those close to Him  
This is a time of friendship and fellowship and closeness  
Jesus does not say anything about "Do this in remembrance of Me" in this event
13. vs. 14: John confirms the significance of this event  
"This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples *after He was raised from the dead.*" (*italics added by me*)  
John notes that they have now seen Jesus 3x since he arose from the dead  
The two times in the locked room, and now here on the seashore  
It didn't happen just once; that could be dismissed as a hallucination  
It didn't happen in just one place—it was in the room and on a faraway seashore  
The grave could not contain Jesus—He rose just like He said He would  
He meets now with His disciples one last time before He returns to heaven  
The disciples are being prepared for the work He is leaving for them to do

Application: Meeting with Jesus is always going to result in good things for us. We get fed in our souls, even more important than getting fed in our bodies. He gives us comfort and peace, and prepares us for what He wants us to do for His kingdom. We do not get to meet Jesus physically while on this earth, like the disciples got to in today's passage. But some day, we will meet Him face to face. As the song says, "What a glory that will be!"

Prayer: Father God, thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. Thank You for the abundance of life that we have in Him. Help us to spend time in His presence daily. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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