

John 21: The Testimony

Lesson Theme: God's Faithfulness to His People—Jesus the Bridegroom

John 3:27-30—

John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' **He who has the bride is the bridegroom;** but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."

John 21:1-14: Come and Eat

1. Jesus presented Himself alive after His resurrection to His disciples. (John 21:1-2)
Acts 1:3—

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.

2. Jesus' teaching of "casting on the right side" and the disciples receiving a multitude of fish demonstrates that Jesus is the authority at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

Acts 2:32-33—(From Peter's sermon at Pentecost)

"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

3. The disciple whom Jesus loved had to tell Peter it was the Lord. But when Peter heard that, right away he returned to the Lord. This is shown by him putting on his outer garment. (John 21:7)

Luke 15:17-24 (The Parable of the Prodigal Son)

4. Simon Peter demonstrated his return to the Lord through obedience. He obeyed the Lord by bringing in the fish he caught. (John 21:8-11)

5. Jesus once again displayed His physical, glorified body by eating with the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (Sea of Galilee). (John 21:12-14)

John 21:15-25: Feed My Sheep

6. Jesus' three-fold re-instatement of Peter shows His forgiveness for Peter's denial of Him three times. Jesus did what He promised—He prayed for Peter that His faith would not fail. (John 21:15-17)

Luke 22:31-32

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

7. Jesus told Peter how he would obey Him—unto death. Peter eventually surrendered his life to Christ as a bondservant, displaying God's glory through him. (John 21:18-19)

2 Peter 1:1a—

"Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,"

2 Peter 1:13-15—

"Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease."

8. Jesus was using this question from Peter to point to His plan to use the apostle John to write the Revelation of Jesus Christ, the last book of Bible to close out the canon of Scripture and the apostolic (1st century) age. (John 21:20-23)
9. We can see John's focus of this gospel, his epistles (1,2, and 3 John), and the Revelation of Jesus Christ pointing to the testimony of Jesus Christ—that of the Bridegroom sent by God to redeem His bride through Jesus' death, burial, and bodily resurrection from the dead. (John 21:24-25)
10. Jesus will return for His bride to take her to the Father's house in heaven. Then, He will return to this earth to rule and reign for 1,000 years of peace. At the end, God will create a new heavens, new earth, where only believers will dwell in the New Jerusalem with God for all eternity.

Conclusions:

- When we repent, we are clothed again in the righteousness of Christ. In other words, repentance reminds us who we are—a child of God.
- Repentance will always show forth through obedience to what God tells us to do.
- The miraculous catch of fish after a night of catching nothing shows that Jesus will complete what he commands us to do. He Himself will bring it to pass and receive all the glory.
- We can rejoice that the redemption plan of God is being carried out each and every day. We await the blessed hope of Jesus' any moment appearing in the air for His bride. Hallelujah!