

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Twenty Nine

Gospel of John

John 21:1-25

Christ Appears to the Seven Disciples

John 21:1-14

Skeptics who disbelieve the resurrection say the disciples only saw a vision of Jesus.

The gospels, however, give us a vivid picture of the reality of the resurrection. Jesus went out of his way to offer his disciples various proofs of his resurrection -- that he is real and true flesh, not just a spirit or ghost.

In his third appearance to the apostles, after Jesus performed the miraculous catch of fish, he prepared a breakfast and ate with them.

Peter's prompt recognition of the Master and exclamation, It is the Lord! stands in sharp contrast to his previous denial of his Master during the night of arrest.

The Lord Jesus reveals himself to each of us as we open our hearts to receive his word. Do you recognize the Lord's presence in your life and do you receive his word with faith?

Christ Speaks to Peter

John 21:15-19

Do you want the fire of God's love to burn in your heart? John the evangelist tells us that *God is love* (1 John 4:16). His love is unconditional, unmerited, and without limit. It lasts forever. It's the beginning and the end – it's the reason God created us and why he wants us to be united with him. And it's the essence of what it means to be a Christian – one who knows God's love and forgiveness and who loves God in return with all one's heart, soul, mind, body, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5, Luke 10:27, Mark 12:33).

God's love heals and transforms our lives and frees us from fear, selfishness, and greed. It draws us to the very heart of God and it compels us to give to him the best we have and all we possess – our gifts, our time, our resources, our full allegiance, and our very lives.

Paul the Apostle tells us that *God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given us* (Romans 5:5). What can quench such love? Certainly indifference, loss of hope, disbelief, and rejection of God and his word.

The Conclusion of Johns Gospel

John 21:20-25

Why do we compare ourselves with others? And no wonder we have so many rivals! We want to be better off than our neighbor!

While Peter and John were both called as disciples of Jesus, each was given a different task or function. When Peter questions John's role, Jesus retorts: "What is that to you? Follow me!" Peter's given task was to "shepherd the sheep of Christ", and in the end to die for Christ.

John's role was preeminently to witness to Christ and to give his testimony to the gospel. John lived to long age and wrote the gospel as his testimony to the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

John ends his gospel with an astonishing remark: "Human books cannot exhaust the person and work of Jesus Christ." His power is inexhaustible, his grace is limitless, his wisdom unfathomable, his triumphs are innumerable and his love is unquenchable. We can never say enough of the power, majesty and glory which belongs to him alone. Do you witness to others the joy of the gospel?