

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on September 13, 2020:**

**"Transformed by the Son of God:  
Participating in Jesus' Resurrection Life  
(John 21:1–25) (Part 24)"**

**[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman on Zoom shows us in the last chapter of the Gospel of John that Jesus teaches us to follow Him, to feed His sheep and to reach out to others with His love.]**

Introduction:

- Many of us have had memorable breakfasts in the past.
- Now, imagine having a breakfast with the resurrected Jesus.
- This is the third time that the resurrected Jesus appears before His disciples.

Overview of today's message about participating in Jesus' resurrection life :

1. As fishers of men we obey Jesus (Verses 1-8)
2. As shepherds of God's flock we love Jesus (Verses 9-17)
3. As disciples we walk with Jesus (Verses 18-25)

In Preview of today's message (John 21:1-25) – Pastor Craig's rhyming verses:

*Jesus appears again, now by the Sea,  
Peter is joined by others totaling two x Three.  
Peter says to the disciples, "I'm going out to Fish,"  
"We'll go with you," was their reply and Wish.*

*Although they caught nothing, that whole Night,  
Jesus is there on shore to address their Plight.  
"Throw your net on the right, and you will Find,  
They caught so many, must have blown their Mind.*

*John said to Peter, "It is the Lord."  
Peter then covered himself and jumped over-Board.  
The other disciples helped to bring in the Catch,  
Another miracle by Jesus, no one could Match.*

*Although the catch was many, the net wasn't Torn,  
Jesus' third appearance to them that Morn.  
"Come and have breakfast," Jesus did Say,  
He's about to ask Peter about his Way.*

*Three times Jesus asks about Peter's Love,  
Peter now feels hurt by the Son from aBove.  
Three times Jesus says, Feed my Sheep,  
Followed by indicating the death he would Reap.*

*Peter asks about John, as if it weren't Fair,  
 "You must follow me," Jesus did deClare.  
 So it became a rumor, John wouldn't Die,  
 And much more could be written to you and I.*

1. As fishers of men we obey Jesus (Verses 1-8):

**John 21:1 (NIV),** Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: **2) Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3) "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.**

- After Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> visit with the disciples, He left them and so Peter decided to go back his vocational trade of being a fisherman.
- The other disciples didn't have anything else to do, so they joined Peter.
- It's almost that Peter had forgotten the mission he was given to do.

**4) Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6) He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.**

- Now, this was the way that Peter originally met Jesus.
- Jesus helped Peter bring in a catch of fish, after he had caught nothing before.
- This event was repeated here again.

**7) Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.**

- The NIV is a bit polite in its translation.
- Other translations say that Peter was naked.
- Apparently, the protocol at that time was to fish naked.
- It was improper protocol to meet someone without clothes on.

**8) The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.**

2. As shepherds of God's flock we love Jesus (Verses 9-17):

**9) When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10) Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11) So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.**

- Why does scripture tell us the number of fish was 153?
- First of all, it was the custom of fishermen to count their total catch.

- And it's also interesting to note that the Jewish community thought there were 153 different Gentile ethnicities in the world.
- This makes sense because Jesus told them that they would become fishers of all mankind.
- So, Jesus made sure that this exact number of fish would be there in the net and counted.
- This should also tell us that Jesus has every jot and tittle covered in our lives.
- Jesus has all of our problems and issues covered and we can have absolute faith that Jesus works down to the details and has every issue in our lives figured out.
- That's just absolutely amazing.

**12) Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13) Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14) This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.**

- This shows that the resurrected Jesus serves humanity.

**15) When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16) Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."**

**17) The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.**

- Jesus is giving Peter three opportunities to revisit that night when he had denied Jesus.
- We know that Jesus didn't reject Peter because of what he had done.
- We also know that Peter was probably self-wounded at what he did.
- By doing this, Jesus is allowing Peter to restore his leadership and service.
- And Jesus is also reminding Peter, and us as well, that we are to feed the flock of the church.

3. As disciples we walk with Jesus (Verses 18-25):

**18) Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19) Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"**

- Church history tells us that Peter was crucified in Rome.
- Peter asked to be crucified upside down because he didn't feel worthy to die in the same manner that Jesus had.

**20) Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) 21) When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”**

- Peter wanted to know the fate of John, as well.

**22) Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”**

- We have a natural inclination of wanting to compare ourselves with each other.
- Paul was inspired to write that we shouldn’t compare ourselves among ourselves, because God doesn’t. (2 Corinthians 10:12)
- Please note that Jesus really doesn’t answer Peter’s question, but rather says that’s it’s important that you follow me.

**23) Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”**

**24) This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. 25) Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.**

- So, we’ve have just completed the Gospel of John.
- In this last passage Jesus reminds us that we are here to feed the sheep and that we’re here to reach out to all of humanity and share the love that Jesus has for us.
- Jesus also told Peter that he would be martyred because of fulfilling what Jesus had told him to do.

In Summary of John 21:1 – 25 (Let’s say this together):

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Peter is joined by others totaling two x Three.  
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In Honor of Setting John To Rhyme, A Final Bonus:

*Completing 21 chapters with this last Round,  
This is what I've concluded, this is what I've Found.  
Perhaps I have a gift, to set the whole NT to Rhyme,  
If only now, I would find the Time.*

(Pastor Craig hopes to be able to do this and then get it published.)

(Closing prayer)