

Previously in John

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- In **John 19**, we read about the crucifixion of Christ.
- In **John 20**, we saw the empty tomb and then Jesus made some initial resurrection appearances.
- **John 20** ended with what we might call **John's purpose statement** for the entire book.

Previously in John

- **John 20:30-31** (ESV)

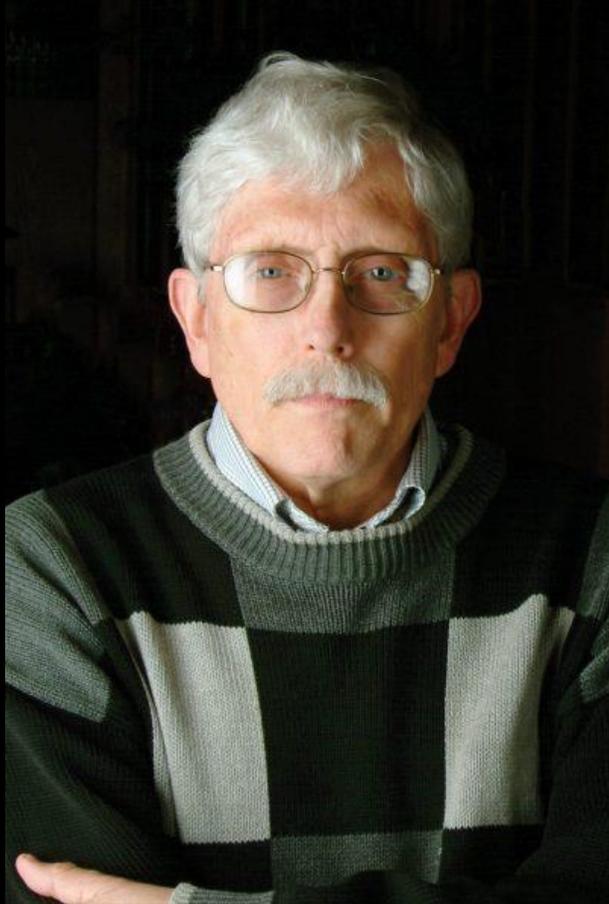
³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 21 Introduction

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- That purpose statement seems so decisive that we might wonder why **John 21** is even here.
- In fact, many scholars have questioned it.
- Their theories of its origin, however, amount to nothing more than pure speculation.
- I personally have to side with Grant Osborne here.

John 21 Introduction



There is no evidence that the Fourth Gospel ever circulated without chapter 21. It is a natural conclusion to the interaction between Peter and the Beloved Disciple, and the threefold reinstatement of Peter (21: 15– 17) is also a fitting denouement to his three denials. ¹

– Grant Osborne (1942 – 2018),
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

John 21 Introduction

- We have consistent manuscript evidence that this Gospel ends with **John 21**.
- We also have a grand total of **zero (0)** evidence that it **does not** belong, or that it belongs somewhere else.
- Therefore, we will proceed with the final chapter of **John**, which is the traditional ending to the book.

John 21 Key Verse

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- John 21:25 (ESV)

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

John 21 Outline

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1. The First Men's Breakfast 21:1-14
2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19
3. John and His Gospel 21:20-25

1. The First Men's Breakfast 21:1-14

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- Jesus gave the disciples a similar amazing catch of fish right at the beginning of their ministry.
- John does not record it for us, but we do find the story in **Luke**.
- See **Luke 5:1-10** if you are interested.

1. The First Men's Breakfast 21:1-14

- 21:7 John or “that disciple whom Jesus loved” may have immediately remembered that earlier incident.
- This could have prompted him to say, “It is the Lord!”

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- Two Lessons **We Do Not Learn** from This Story:
 1. That when we listen to Jesus, things always work out better for us – as in **we catch more fish**.
- Sometimes that is true, but not always.
- There are also times when an ethical, more biblical approach to our work is **less profitable**.
- We might **catch less fish**, if you will, than if we cheat.

1. The First Men's Breakfast 21:1-14

- Two Lessons **We Do Not Learn** from This Story:
 2. That there is some special significance to the number **153** (**v.11**) – something secret or symbolic.
- Honestly, there probably isn't, so we will be better off not wasting our time looking for something there.

1. The First Men's Breakfast 21:1-14

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- Two Lessons **We Can Learn** from This Story:
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- **One of the fishermen** might remember that **Simon Peter** hauled the net ashore and **the number of fish**.
- **Someone like John** might easily be that fisherman who remembered those details and recorded them for us.

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- It is no accident that **fellowship meals** have always been a part of church life.

- And it seems that we can look forward to them even in the next world!

1. The First Men's Breakfast 21:1-14

- Two Lessons **We Can Learn** from This Story:

2. Jesus loved to eat with people – and this turns out to be true **even after** he rose from the dead.

- In other words, we aren't quite kidding if we call this **the first men's breakfast**.

- Jesus was the chef and he seems to have started cooking before the other guys made it to shore.

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

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- Background to This Story:
- **John 13:36-38** (ESV)

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.”

³⁷ Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ...

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- Background to This Story:

- **John 13:36-38** (ESV)

... ³⁸ Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- Background to This Story:

- **John 18:15-18** (ESV)

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in ...

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- Background to This Story:
- **John 18:15-18** (ESV)

... ¹⁷ The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸ Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- Background to This Story:

- **John 18:25-27** (ESV)

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.”

²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” ²⁷ Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- Peter denied Christ three times after his enthusiastic commitment to remain faithful no matter what.
- More than anyone, Peter might benefit from Christ asking about his love and restoring him to ministry.

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- 21:15 Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?
- Possible meanings:
 1. More than you love these disciples?
 2. More than you love these fish?
 3. More than these other disciples love me?

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- Luke 22:31-33 (ESV)

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.”

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- Matthew 26:33 (ESV)

Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- 21:18-19 When we are young we tend to feel more freedom and independence than when we are old.
- There can be a depth of self-will that, in all honesty, is not fully submitted to God.
- But Jesus is talking about more than that here.

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- **21:18-19** Jesus is letting Peter know that the day will come when he will be led off to be executed.
- Teachers and historians of the early church tell us that Peter was crucified at Rome.
- (One source says it was “upside down” but that might not be completely reliable.)

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- Peter's Commitment

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- Peter's Commitment

1. Peter said he would never fall away even if others did – and even if he had to go to prison and death.
2. When it came down to it, he could not follow through on his words.
3. Now Jesus tells him that he will in fact have to follow through on them later.

2. Jesus Restores Peter 21:15-19

- Peter's Restoration

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- Peter's Restoration

1. Most of us have denied Christ in some way, so we are encouraged by Peter's restoration.
2. Christ gives Peter a lifelong ministry to feed and to tend his flock.
3. In the end it was going to cost Peter his life.
4. We may be eager to be restored, but we should also be willing to count the cost of discipleship.

3. John and His Gospel 21:20-25

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- 21:20 the disciple whom Jesus loved
- See John 13:21-30 for the incident John describes.
- 21:21 What about this man?
- 21:22-24 We might reword Christ's answer as, "Don't worry about him, Peter; focus on yourself."

3. John and His Gospel 21:20-25

- 21:22-24 We might reword Christ's answer as, "Don't worry about him Peter, focus on yourself."
- We very much need to keep an eye on our own commitment to Christ and stay close to him.
- It is not usually helpful to compare ourselves with others or the calling that God has given them.

3. John and His Gospel 21:20-25

- 21:22-24 We might reword Christ's answer as, "Don't worry about him Peter, focus on yourself."
- John, now old as he writes this, wants to correct a rumor that has spread about him.

3. John and His Gospel 21:20-25

- Again, 21:25 is our key verse.
- As long as Christ is at work in us and through us, there will always be more to add to the story.

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John 21 Key Points

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- The Gospel of John has numerous marks of eyewitness testimony.
- This indicates that it is completely trustworthy.
- Jesus enjoyed fellowship meals even after his resurrection.
- We should enjoy them now, because they are one aspect of church life that will not stop.

John 21 Key Points

- If we, like Peter, have fallen away from Jesus, we should know that Jesus is ready to restore us.
- We should also remember that restoration involves a return to the cost of our discipleship.
- Our discipleship is mainly between us and Jesus, not something we compare with others.

John 21 A Prayer

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- Heavenly Father,
- We look forward to enjoying eternity in your presence along with the risen Christ.
- Help us to be mindful that heaven is our real home.
- For every way that we have denied Christ we ask your forgiveness. We also ask that, like Peter, we would be restored. Make us capable of following through on our commitment to Christ regardless of the cost.

John 21 A Prayer

- Help us also to encourage others in their faith even as Peter was required to feed and tend to Christ's sheep.
- As we engage in that ministry of building others up, help us to avoid a competitive or comparing mindset and rather seek to faithfully serve you.
- In Christ,
- Amen

John 21 References

1. Osborne, Grant R. *John Verse by Verse* (Osborne New Testament Commentaries) (Kindle Locations 7701-7703). Lexham Press. Kindle Edition.