

STORY

The Appearance to Disciples in Galilee- John 21:1-17

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Savior, You appeared to Your disciples and Peter in Galilee to comfort them and to strengthen their faith. You also called Peter, who denied You three times, to become a shepherd of souls. You have also called me to help in teaching the children in our Sunday School. Send Your Holy Spirit that I may be a faithful teacher of Your children in my preparations, in my teaching, and in my daily life. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Sea of Tiberias - Another name for the Sea of Galilee. At Jesus' time Tiberias was the name of one of the nine smaller communities around the Sea of Galilee. One historian, Josephus, states that it was built by Herod Antipas and was named by him in honor of the emperor Tiberias. Many of the inhabitants of Tiberias were Greeks and Romans, so foreign customs prevailed there. "Sea of Tiberias" was used by John only (21:1).

200 cubits - A cubit is an ancient measure of length, about 18-20 inches; originally the length of the arm from the end of the middle finger to the elbow. 200 cubits is about 100 yards.

Gird yourself - The term, "gird up" and "gird up your loins" called for one to use a belt or sash to gather up the length or fulness of a garment to be ready for any service or activity that might be required.

Simon, son of Jonas - By these words Jesus addressed Peter. "Peter" was the name of honor (Rock) that Jesus gave to Simon. Jesus used his original name in order to remind Peter that he had, by denying Jesus three times, reverted to his natural state and disposition.

The disciple whom Jesus loved - John never refers to himself by name in his writings. He usually referred to himself as "that other disciple" or "the disciple that Jesus loved." By that term John did not suggest that he was Jesus' favorite disciple, or that Jesus loved him more than others. John believed on Jesus as the Savior of all people, even John! It is a humble confession of his faith when he includes himself in Jesus' love.

OUTER AIM

The resurrected Savior appeared to His disciples at Galilee as He promised. There, He reminds them of His loving care and forgiveness in directing His called shepherds to "Feed My lambs and feed My sheep."

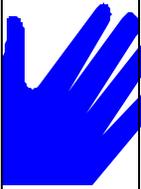
INNER AIM

To recognize God's Hand in our lives: the forgiving love and the life-giving care of Jesus for His disciples and all people.

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 2, pp. 447-452)

Jesus appears to His disciples in Galilee as He had promised. There He comforted Peter and called him to be a shepherd of His sheep. Before He had been crucified Jesus had promised His disciples that He would



rise again the third day and go before them into Galilee. On Easter Sunday Jesus showed himself alive to the women and the disciples. He continued to appear to them in order to reinforce their faith. In our lesson today, we join the disciples as they go fishing while they wait for Jesus to appear in Galilee. When Jesus appeared to His disciples in Galilee, He reminded them of His great love and power. He assured Peter of forgiveness for his denials, and called him to be a shepherd (pastor) of His lambs and sheep.

- ▶ When Jesus was tried before the High Priest, Peter in the courtyard denied even knowing the Lord. Peter was sorry for this sin and wept bitter tears of repentance.
- ▶ Our Bible account for today shows Jesus' great love for Peter by letting him know his sin was forgiven and that he was being called to serve Jesus as a shepherd of His sheep.
- ▶ Jesus had told the disciples that after His death He would go before them into Galilee.
- ▶ After Jesus appeared to them in Jerusalem, they waited for His appearance in Galilee.
- ▶ Peter decided to use the time by continuing to work at his old profession of fishing, and the disciples went with him. They could not locate fish to net.
- ▶ As they were rowing to shore, suddenly Jesus appeared on shore, but they did not recognize Him.
- ▶ He called out, "Children, have you any food? They replied: "No!" He directed them to cast their net out of the right side of the boat. They did this and, as the net became very heavy with the weight of fish, they knew that the One on shore was Jesus.
- ▶ Knowing this, Peter plunged into the sea and hurried to shore.
- ▶ The disciples brought the boat to shore with a net full of 153 fish, yet the net never split open.
- ▶ Jesus invited them to a breakfast that was already prepared for them.
- ▶ After they had eaten, Jesus spoke privately to Peter, calling him Simon (not Peter, the "Rock"). Jesus said, "Simon, do you love me more than these?" Peter is asked to rank his love in a scale of comparison to others.
- ▶ He replied, "Yes, Lord, You know I love You."
- ▶ Jesus said to him, "Feed My lambs."
- ▶ Jesus asked him again, "Do you love me?" No comparison is asked for here; no ranking of its value. It is just a question for what love he had in the most essential, simple way.
- ▶ When he replied: "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You", Jesus said, "Tend My sheep."
- ▶ When Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love (even like) Me?" The verb changes - as Jesus asked for the presence of even an affection between companions. That's what really stung!
- ▶ Peter replied, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."
- ▶ Jesus said, "Feed My sheep." Jesus gives Him the assurance that even that last "like" sort of love is still of use for the service of feeding His flock the precious Word of Truth.

STUDENT PRAYER

Lower: Jesus, we thank you for forgiving us our sins, and making us lambs in Your flock. Lead us safely Home. Amen.

Upper: Lord Jesus, we too have often sinned by denying You. Thank you for forgiving us and for being our Good Shepherd. Lead us safely Home to You. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Tell the story with the same emotion and excitement as if you were there. Tell the story in your words, but be faithful to the account that God wrote through the evangelist John.

APPLICATIONS

As God brings us to faith in our Savior, we become the lambs and the sheep of His flock. He leads us with the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins and a love for our souls. He therefore continues to call shepherds (pastors and teachers) to help care for His flock, that they may follow Him all the way Home.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Psalm 23:1a and 6b - The Lord is my shepherd... I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Hymn 428, stanza 4: I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead; Ev'ry day and hour supplying All my need.

Middle any of the above and...

Psalm 23:1-3 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Hymn 428, stanzas 1-3: I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee; Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon; At Thy feet I bow, For Thy grace and tender mercy Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood; Trusting Thee to make me holy By Thy blood.

Upper any of the above and...

Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Hymn 428, stanzas 4-6: I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead, Ev'ry day and hour supplying All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail. Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall. I am trusting Thee forever And for all.