

IV. John's True Testimony about Jesus (21:24-25)

"John ends his gospel with...humility. The story is larger than anything he can imagine. His effort, while glorious for us to read, pales in comparison to the glory of the Person whom his story describes."

Gary Burge

Splash pool? Lake? Clear stream?

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and community.

- Why do you think it was important for John to include the story we have in John 21 in his Gospel?
- What aspects of Peter's restoration stand out to you the most? Why?
- What aspects of Jesus' character do you see on display in John 21?
- Why is Jesus' knowledge of Peter (and his personal knowledge of you) actually a comfort?
- How does Jesus' call for love from Peter and his call for Peter to serve his flock go hand-in-hand? How do you see those calls intertwined in your own life?
- What does it look like for you to live in the shadow of the reality of suffering, persecution, and death as a part of the Christian life?
- Can you share an instance when God has moved your attitude from competition to complementarity with regard to a brother or sister in Christ?
- How has the Holy Spirit used John's Gospel as a stream of clear water in your life?

Lost and Found: A Living Parable for Wandering Sheep
Peter Stonecipher - August 25, 2019

Text: John 21:1-25

Introduction

A child's splash pool? An elephant's lake?

A living parable for wandering sheep

I. Jesus Reveals Himself a third Time (21:1-14)

A. Two previous revelations

Is there even a need for John 21?

B. Fishing? Why not?

C. John's testimony and Peter's response

John 20:30-31

John's words to Peter in John 21 have the effect that John desires his Gospel to have on all who read it - belief that Jesus is the Christ

D. The Good Shepherd's faithfulness in revealing himself

The Lord revealing himself is nothing less than the Good Shepherd's active pursuit of his sheep, insisting that we know what he's like and that we recognize his voice

E. Is your ear trained to the Good Shepherd's voice?

II. Jesus Restores Peter with Three Questions (21:15-17)

A. Peter's complete, public, personal restoration

The last time we saw Peter around a charcoal fire in John's Gospel, it was in John 18 and Peter was warming himself with various servants of the high priest in Jerusalem and he denies being a disciple of Jesus

The events of John 21 aren't a mere formality, as if Jesus attempts to balance the scales after Peter's denial in the only way he knows how

B. Jesus' call on Peter's life

C. The Good Shepherd is *still* in the restoration business

Do we intercede in faith for those who are wandering right now that they would be restored to God in a similar way to Peter? Believing that God can surely do it?

Do you regularly recall instances of God working personal restoration in your life?

III. Jesus Restores Peter and John (21:18-23)

A. Jesus' challenge

Early church tradition holds that Peter was crucified for his faith in Jesus in Rome under Emperor Nero in the mid 60s AD

John 13:37

"Peter lived and served three decades with this prediction hanging over him." D.A. Carson

B. Peter's distraction

Peter is still Peter

C. From competition to complementarity

"This is no belittling of either disciple. One of them may be called to strategic pastoral ministry and a martyr's crown, and the other to a long life and to strategic historical-theological witness, in written form." D.A. Carson

D. What following Jesus *really* means

The Christian life *will* involve persecution, cross-bearing, self-denial, sin-killing, and, one day, facing physical death