

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*

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The Book of John

Lesson 41 follow me

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Read: John 21: 1-25

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John 21:1 *After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself. There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing.* All the commentaries I have ever read find fault with these men going fishing. They were told by the Lord that He was sending them out into the world to preach the gospel. The commentators say that this shows a departure from following Jesus and a falling back to the old life; but they are not rebuked by the Lord for having gone fishing. The Bible does say in *2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.* They are hiding in an upper room for fear of the Jews, so they are not working, and subsequently not eating. So at night, they slip out and go fishing. This is a lot less sinister explanation for it than they are all backslidden.

Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. Peter is the leader. *They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.* They had a fishing trip like this before, Remember Luke 5:5 – they did not catch anything.

Verse 4, *But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.* They are way out in the water and they see a figure in the form of a man standing there. Obviously, He is not radiating with a heavenly glow. He is just a man standing on the shore. *Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.* The question may arise in your mind, why would they obey His command? They are commercial fishermen. Why would they throw the net over the right side of the boat just because some guy is standing on the beach said to do it. You would only say that or think that as I would if you do not fish. People I know that fish would try anything to catch a fish. Anything anybody suggests. *They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.*

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Verse 7, *Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) "He was naked" is an unusual thing to say, he was probably wearing shorts. Yet, he does not want Jesus to see him that way. and did cast himself into the sea.* Let us get a little practical doctrine since most enjoy swimming and going out in the sun. You can swim with clothes on and not drown. You do not have to strip down to your under garments in order to swim. Peter gets dressed and then goes swimming. Starting in Genesis 3 and all the way through your Bible, nobody in the presence of the Lord wanted to be uncovered. You have to put some distance between you and God to be comfortable being uncovered. Fig leaves will not do, and neither will shorts in the presence of the Lord *and did cast himself into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.* They all probably said, "Thanks a lot Peter. Appreciate you leaving us to row this load to the shore."

Verse 9, *As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.* What a blessing to have Jesus make breakfast for you.

Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, and hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. You know the number hundred and fifty three is in the Bible for some hidden reason, Right? I have heard the following explanations, none of which I can prove to be accurate.

- There were 153 people that Jesus specifically spoke with in the four gospels.
- There were 153 countries mentioned in the four Gospels.
- There will 153 separate nations when the Lord returns and He will gather.
- The number 153 is the Pythagorean triangle.

There is only one that I can prove to be correct. There were recorded exactly 153 individuals who received direct blessing from Jesus during His earthly ministry. There are at least 17 prophetic passages speaking of God catching nations in a net for judgment. This is interesting 153 is the sum of all numbers from one to seventeen.

Verse 12, *Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine.* The Master calls, come and dine. It is hard to read that verse and not think of the marriage supper of the Lamb. *And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it*

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was the Lord. Here again, how come they did not know by looking at Him, who He was? The implication is they knew but not by appearance.

Verse 13. Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. This is significant for five reasons.

1. It shows the Lord taking care to supply the temporal needs of His servants. They need food. They need a meal. He gives them one.
2. He humbled Himself to prepare them a table and we should serve others in the same way.
3. Shows that laborers need rest and refreshment with the Lord.
4. The fact that Jesus is cooking fish while they are trying and failing to catch fish shows that Christ is not dependent on our efforts.
5. Pictures the day when our labor has ended and we sit down with Him on the heavenly shore.

Verse 14, *This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.* This is the seventh appearance all told, but the third as dealt with in John.

Verse 15. *So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, This is interesting, except for Luke 22:34, Jesus always referred to him as Simon, not as Peter.) Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?* (I am not clear on this part of the passage.) *...more than these?*

Some say, More than fish? Are you going to go back to fishing, Simon? Or are you going to love me enough to go on with me? *...more than these?*

Others say, Peter, do you love more than the other disciples? And you say, why would he say that? Well, did not he the last time they were all together before the crucifixion say, "though all men deny thee, yet will I never deny thee?" Mark 14:31 He was sort of bragging and saying, I love you more than they do. Everybody else might bale out on you, but not me. You can count on me. The Lord is putting Him on a spot. And implied "Peter, are you as big a man as you thought you were? Do you love me more than these? Are you really the most spiritual?"

He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. Great answer, first of all, he owns Him as Lord, which is a good thing. Second of all, he testifies I do love you; you know I love you. And thirdly, he stops short of saying *more than these.*

He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. Shepherds say if the lambs are contented, the flock is contented. If you care for the lambs, you care for the flock.

Verse 16, *He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

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Verse 17, *He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me?* Remember the passage in Luke 22, put yourself there for a moment, here is a man who says he is your best friend, who had on numerous occasions told you that he would fight for you, and die for you and never deny you, and yet when proven he fails, can you feel the sadness in the Lord's heart when He turned and looked at Peter?

Luke 22:60-61 *And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.*

Jesus is giving him a chance to make things right. You reap what you sow. Peter is hurting now, it is breaking his heart. *And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

Verse 18, *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.* Several schools of thought could hold true here the first being that when Peter was young, he dressed, cared and provided for himself, and when he became old he had to be taken care of by the younger *When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest:* The last portion of verse 18 is defined in verse 19 " *signifying by what death he should glorify God*"

Verse 19, *This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.* History accounts that Peter was crucified upside down, that his arms were stretched out over his head then nailed to the cross, his waist was bound to the length of the cross to prevent him from toppling over. This was done in Rome under Nero's reign in A.D.68. One could say that if John understood all of what he was writing, maybe he told Peter that he was going to live to be old. *but when thou shalt be old.* One of the many questions we will have time to ask in eternity.

Verse 20, *Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?* Curiously, when Peter sees John, the first thought that comes to his mind is the conversation during the last supper. At this point I believe Peter puts himself into the answer of John's question, as being the one who betrayed Jesus's trust in denying Him three times.

Verse 21, *Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?* Peter feels bad enough for his denial, he feels bad because the Lord has

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reminded him of that denial three more times, and he has also reminded himself, through John's appearance that he had betrayed the Lord Peter is over being the center of attention, so he focuses his attention on John in hopes that the Lord will do so also.

Verse 22, *Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.* Peter may want the Lord to focus His conversation to John, but the Lord is not done talking to Peter. "*follow thou me*"

Verse 23, *Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?* Why is it that we are always worried about what the other person is doing, so often do we compare ourselves with others to make a point, either to convince ourselves or our peers, the Bible clearly says this is not wise. 2 Corinthians 10:12

Verse 24, *This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.* (see also Titus 1:2)

Verse 25 *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.*

Notes

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Read: John 21: 1-25

1. What is the importance of the number 153?
2. What is the Bible picture of the fish in the net?
3. How is naked defined in scripture?
4. Why does Jesus tell them to cast the net on the right side of the ship?
5. What is notable about the dress of those in the presence of Jesus?
6. How does this theme of being naked speak to us today?, And how should we wear our clothing?
7. How are the events of verses 7-8 consistent with the character of Peter?
8. What is the importance of the net not being broken?
9. Make a list of Bible references of God gathering the nations in a net.

Hints:

- Psalms
- Hosea
- Habakkuk

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- Ezekiel
10. Referencing question 9, what do these verses have in common?
 11. What is important about Peter's decision in verse 3?
 12. What is notable about Peter's place among the disciples?
 13. What does the action of others suggest about leadership?
 14. Compare verse 3 with Mark 16:20 and discuss.
 15. What earlier incident is brought to mind by the events of verse 4-6?
 16. From Matthew, Luke, John, and 1 Corinthians, list in order the seven post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. (use back of page)

True/false

- We should judge ourselves with our peers?
- Jesus reminds us of our failures, so we will never want to do them again.
- Every child of God has a distinct purpose in the kingdom of God



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV) Titus 1:2; John 21:10; Mark 1:17.

Any questions?