The first dozen chapters of John’s Gospel take us to the Last Supper in the Upper Room the night before Jesus died. Last week we surveyed that material. Today we will discuss chapters 13 through the end of the Gospel, chapter 21.

These chapters are particularly dramatic - especially in the light of this week, Holy Week - or Easter. We should remember that John was an eyewitness to all these happenings, yes, even appearing as the sole disciple at the gruesome crucifixion of our Lord.

Most of tonight’s information takes place between Mount Zion, on the southern side of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and the Garden of Gethsemane, located just east of the city, across the Kidron Valley at the foot of the Mount of Olives. While I will be starting basically with chapter 13, I want to digress for a moment as we consider these poignant verses in chapter 12. Jesus has now entered Jerusalem for the last time and somewhere near or in the great Temple, Jesus announced:

John 12:23-28 KJV  And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. [24] Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. [25] He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. [26] If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. [27] Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. [28] Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

This is the next-to-last day of Jesus’ earthly life. He knows what awaits Him as He enters the Holy City. It will begin that very evening with the betrayals by Judas, the walk north through the Kidron Valley with His disciples, His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and His arrest. His question is rhetorical: “What shall I say? Father, save me from this? This is why I came!”

CHAPTER THIRTEEN
THE DRAMA UPSTAIRS IN THE HOUSE ON MOUNT ZION

On the page before this there is a map (also projected on the screen) which shows the geographic locations in Jerusalem of this “drama of the ages.” It begins at the lower left side of the map marked MOUNT ZION UPPER ROOM. This is where the mother of John Mark (who gave us the Gospel of Mark) lived with his mother, who apparently was a woman of some means. It was here that Jesus met with His disciples to eat “the Passover feast.”

Judas’ Shows His True Nature

John 13:1-2 KJV

Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, [he loved them unto the end.] [2] And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

As was the case of the father of the Prodigal Son (Luke 11:15-32), who never stopped loving his wayward son, Jesus never stopped loving those disciples - even though one would betray Him and another would even deny knowing Him. At this point Jesus did the unthinkable:

John 13:4-9 KJV

He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. [5] After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. [6] Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? [7] Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. [8] Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. [9] Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

There are some churches that practice foot-washing and I certainly have no argument with them if the spiritual impact is strong. Why did Jesus do this? It is Passover, and Jesus is to be God’s Passover Lamb, the final and ultimate sacrifice. Jesus was saying to the men, in effect, if you are not washed by me, you will no part with Me in my eternal home. I believe this passage from Paul fits here: Ephes. 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; [26] That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.... And how are you and I cleansed today? 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to
forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Last Sunday I preached a message on Judas’ betrayal. Here is John’s eyewitness account:

John 13:21-28

When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. [22] Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. [23] Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. [24] Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. [25] He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? [26] Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. [27] And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. [28] He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

PETER’S BOAST QUICKLY REJECTED BY JESUS

John 13:36-38

Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards. [37] Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. [38] Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

This, of course, happened in Caiaphas’ courtyard probably sometime after midnight. But now note something vital here: While we believe the contents in the Bible are infallible, the chapter and verse separations are not. There should not be a chapter heading between chapter 13 and 14 - at least not at this point. Why?

- It has been pretty rough going following dinner. Judas leaves to betray Jesus for one thing.
- Peter gets rebuked for his boast that he would never leave Jesus.
- NOW....JESUS POURES OIL ON THE TROUBLED HEARTS OF THESE MEN WITH THIS:

CHAPTER FOURTEEN
John 14:1-6

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. [2] In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. [4] And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. [5] Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? [6] Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Here are pivotal points from that passage:

1) Your heavenly Father does not want you to fret and stew, even in perilous times. “Let not your heart be troubled!” We can have inner peace even in the most turbulent times.
2) The old song, “I’ve Got A Mansion Over The Hilltop,” isn’t necessarily so. We should sing, “I’ve got a [PLACE] just over the hilltop.” For that’s what Jesus promised.

“The Place”

The Lord had in mind an Oriental dwelling when He used this figure to teach the disciples concerning their future abode. In the society in which Jesus lived, the houses were build in the form of a hollow square around a large open patio. Normally the walls were built without any opening in them, with the exception of a large main door or gate which opened into the patio and could be barred for protection. When one entered through the door or gate into the patio, he would find a number of rooms which opened off the central court. They did not have interior hallways off which numerous rooms would open, but all rooms would open off the central square. When a father would take a bride for his son, he would simply go to an unused portion of that enclosure and would wall off another room or two and that would become the habitation of the son and his bride. As the family increased, another wall would be put up and the living quarters would expand. When we read, “In my Father’s house are many mansions, “it usually brings to our mind a beautiful earthly edifice, polished and adorned with silver and gold. But that is not the picture the Lord has in view at all. Rather He is saying that in the enclosure called the Father’s house, there will be many, many apartments - or dwelling places. This emphasizes the fact of the unity of the family - united one another and with the Father.

PROPHECY FOR TODAY / D PENTECOST / PP. 23 AND 24 / ZONDERVAN PUBL.

3) Jesus did not say, “I am one of many ways.” No, He emphatically stated, “I am THE
way.” And He added, “No man comes to God except by Me.”

THE TEST OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

John 14:15  
If ye love me, keep my commandments. Jesus said, “You say you love me? Prove it! Do what I tell you! That’s the test of Christian love and discipleship.

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO WOULD FOLLOW

John 14:16-18
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [17] Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [18] I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. [14:26] But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Now in this chapter (remember chapter headings are not infallible), Jesus continued with this matter of obeying Him:

John 15:10
If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. [14] Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

It’s pretty easy to sing, “Jesus is a Friend of mine,” and “What a Friend we have in Jesus.” Jesus qualifies our boast: “You are my friend - IF - you do what I tell you to do.”

The Purpose of the Holy Spirit

John 15:26-27
But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: [27] And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

Any “manifestation” of the Holy Spirit will ALWAYS spotlight Jesus Christ - not the
one being used of the Spirit and not even the Holy Spirit Himself (for He does not testify
- or bear witness - of Himself; only CHRIST!)

Chapter Sixteen

Imagine...Jesus either spending time with the remaining eleven disciples or walking in
the midnight hour through the deep Kidron Valley to the east of the Great Temple -
approaching Gethsemane. As they walk, Jesus continues telling them everything they
need to know. After all, in nine or ten hours, He will be nailed to a cross - and by 3
o'clock, He will be dead (for three days).

Now Jesus teaches them about the Holy Spirit:

John 16:7-14

Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go
not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto
you. [8] And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness,
and of judgment: [9] Of sin, because they believe not on me; [10] Of righteousness,
because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; [11] Of judgment, because the
prince of this world is judged. [12] I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye
cannot bear them now. [13] Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will
guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall
hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. [14] He shall glorify
me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Verse 7: “It is expedient (to your betterment) that I go away,” said Jesus. How could
such a thing be? That must have shocked the disciples. Why was it expedient? So He
could send the Holy Spirit to them Who would do so many things for them:

1) He would be the Comforter in tough times ahead - including martyrdom for some.
2) He would show the sharp distinction to them between sin and righteousness.
3) He, the Holy Spirit, would be their personal guide into all truth.
4) He would reveal things to come.
5) He would make Christ even more real to them.

And Jesus indicated that even in His own present crisis, the Holy Spirit would minister to
Him:

John 16:32-33  Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be
scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone,
because the Father is with me. [33] These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN
The Lord’s Prayer

In this chapter we have our Lord’s Prayer (not the “our Father Who are in Heaven” prayer which was Jesus’ teaching on proper formatting for our prayers). I enjoy the commentator’s introduction to the chapter:

We come now to one of the most remarkable chapters in the Bible. It is the longest prayer in the Bible, although it would take you only three minutes to read it. I think that is a good indication of the length of public prayers. If you can’t say all you’ve got to say in three minutes, then you’ve got too much to say. I’ll be very frank with you. I think brief prayers, thought out right to the point, are more effective than those long, rambling ones we hear. No wonder prayer meetings are as dead as a dodo bird!

J. Vernon McGee - Thru the Bible (John) / page 476 / Nelson Publ.

Somewhere in the Kidron Valley, approaching Gethsemane just hours from the cross, Jesus prayed this prayer:

John 17:1-26 (KJV)

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: [2] As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. [3] And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. [4] I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. [5] And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. [6] I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. [7] Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. [8] For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. [9] I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. [10] And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. [11] And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. [12] While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have
kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be
fulfilled. [13] And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that
they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. [14] I have given them thy word; and
the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the
world. [15] I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou
shouldest keep them from the evil. [16] They are not of the world, even as I am not
of the world. [17] Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. [18] As thou
hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. [19] And
for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.
[20] Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me
through their word; [21] That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I
in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast
sent me. [22] And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may
be one, even as we are one: [23] I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made
perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved
them, as thou hast loved me. [24] Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given
me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given
me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. [25] O righteous Father,
the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that
thou hast sent me. [26] And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it:
that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Verse 1: “The hour is come...” What hour? The one designed by God before the
world began in which redemption would be purchased a horrendous cost to Him - the
death of Jesus, the ultimate Lamb “slain from the foundation of the world.”

Verse 2: Jesus says He has power over all flesh; that is, He could have made every one
ever born bow to Him had He so wanted.

Verse 4) “I have finished the work thou gavest me to do.” Paul could say the same
thing in 2 Tim 4 shortly before his beheading: 2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I
have finished my course, I have kept the faith: I so want to be able to make such a
declaration in my last day on earth!

Verse 5) Jesus calls upon the Father God to restore to Him the glory He had before the
world was created.

In the next verses Jesus intercedes for His followers.

Verse 17) Jesus prayed, “As thou hast sent me into the world....even so have I also
sent them into the world." To do what? This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all accetption, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Jesus has firmly commissioned us (throughout scripture) to be soul-winners for Him. That was His appointed task, even as it is now ours!

CHAPTER NINETEEN
The Greatest Story Ever Told

John 18:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron (Kidron), where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

Many times I have had the privilege of spending time in Gethsemane, the olive tree grove that adorns the foothills of the Mount of Olives. Jesus spent quite a few nights there for, as far as we know, He never spent a night inside the walled city of Jerusalem. I always spend time teaching my fellow pilgrims on our Holy Land journeys from Gethsemane or the Valley itself just beside it. I call the folks’ attention way above us to the east - the eastern wall of the city, behind which sat the Great Temple.

Now, as Jesus agonized before God concerning drinking the cup of mankind’s sin, in our minds’ eyes we can see the eastern gate open, and in the darkness what looks like a slithering red snake coming down the embankment. It is the temple soldiers, holding aloft their torches, led by the real snake, Judas Iscariot. John 18:3 Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. There Jesus was arrested: John 18:12-13 Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him, [13] And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.

Annas had been the high priest. History testifies to the fact that he was one of the most brilliant, one of the most clever and one of the most satanic of all the priests. Caiaphas was the one whom the Roman government accepted but the real head of the religious group was old Annas. It is my judgment that it was he who plotted the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus. I think Annas was behind it all. What an injustice has been done the Jews down through the centuries. They have been blamed for what others did. I do not take the responsibility of Jesse James just because he happened to be an American. Do you?

McGee / Ibid
The Denials of Peter

When Peter (who earlier had professed that he would never leave or deny Jesus) was approached by several people, including a girl, he said he had never heard of Jesus. He denied Him three times. Jesus had told him earlier that day, “Before the rooster crows in the morning, you will have denied me three times.” And he did. How do you suppose he felt when he heard that rooster? Yet, unlike Judas, who apparently discounted any forgiveness from Jesus, Peter repented and became the great apostle to much of the world.

Trial before Pontius Pilate

I have spent a lot of time in recent days teaching about Pilate so I will not go into it again. Suffice it to say that Pilate knew Jesus was an innocent men, set up by brutal politicians. He released Barabbas to the mob. And, despite knowing Jesus was innocent of any charges, he did the following:

CHAPTER NINETEEN
The Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus Christ

This chapter is vital for so many reasons, one of which is the fact that John was there - on the scene, eyewitness news. He saw Jesus nailed to the cross. He could hear the blood spatter on the ground. He could hear the groans of the Saviour. On either side of Him a criminal was also crucified.

John 19:19-22  And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. [20] This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. [21] Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. [22] Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

There is no doubt that Pilate put this inscription on the cross of Jesus to irritate and annoy the Jews. They had just said that they had no king but Caesar; they had just absolutely refused to have Jesus as their king. And Pilate, by way of a grim jest, put this inscription on His cross. Here is Pilate the inflexible, the man who will not yield an inch. So very short time before, this same man had been weakly vacillating as to whether to crucify Jesus or to let Him go; and in the end had allowed himself to be bullied and blackmailed. Adamant about the inscription, he had been weak about the crucifixion.

JOHN (VOLUME II) / WILLIAM BARCLAY / WESTMINSTER PRESS / P 252
A SON’S LOVE

Jesus was not alone at Golgotha. Four women named Mary, one of them His mother, one of them the Mary of Magdala (the town just north of Tiberias), were there along with the young disciple John - perhaps 20 years old, not more.

John 19:25-27

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. [26] When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! [27] Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Some time later when the great persecution his the Jerusalem church, the believers scattered all over the known world. John ended up in Turkey (Asia Minor, as it says in Acts) where for many years he pastored the great church in Ephesus. When he was 90, he was exiled by Roman Emperor Domitian to Patmos, an island in the Aegean Sea, between Turkey and Greece, where Jesus appeared to him and gave him the mighty Revelation. It is believed that Mary went with John to Ephesus and her “grave” is noted there.

In his Gospel, John went into a lot of detail concerning Jesus’ last hours on the cross. He also notes that Joseph of Arimathaea solicited Jesus’ body from Pilate in order to give Him an orderly burial.

John 19:38-42

And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. [39] And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. [40] Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. [41] Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. [42] There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

CHAPTER TWENTY
This chapter begins with such power, such awe: John 20:1-10

The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. [2] Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. [3] Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. [4] So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. [5] And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. [6] Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, [7] And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. [8] Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. [9] For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. [10] Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

When Peter looked into the empty tomb, he saw the grave clothes of Jesus, not unlike a mummy's wrappings, lying intact, with the head cloth to the side, neatly folded. Then John poked his head in and saw the same thing. Scriptures say, "They believed!" More about this on Sunday, Easter Day.

Jesus did not get resuscitated! He was resurrected! Big difference. And, as Paul assures us in I Corinthians 15, Jesus was the "first fruits," the prototype of the kind of body you and I will have following the Rapture. In verses 19-23 we read that Jesus entered a locked and guarded room to meet the disciples. The walls, the doors, the locks, did not stop the glorified and resurrected Christ. Remember, you, too, will have a glorified body one day.

Thomas

In verses 24-29, we hear of Thomas, who was not there when Jesus appeared to the disciples, heard that the Lord was resurrected and responded, "Unless I see the print of the nails and put my hand in His riven side, I will not believe." Jesus appeared to him and Thomas became one of the greatest missionaries in the history of the faith. It was Thomas who opened the doors to the Gospel in India, where he was assassinated by a rabid Hindu at the city we know today as Chennai (formerly Madras). Today there are many, many Pentecostal churches in Chennai, one of them averaging over 40,000 in attendance each Sunday. I have seen them for I have preached in that church several times. 2,000 new Assemblies of God churches are being opened across India every year. And to think - it got started by the "doubter," Thomas.
CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

There is a place in Israel, along the northern coastline of the Sea of Galilee, just a mile or
so south of Capernaum, known as MENSA CRISTI, the “table of the Lord.” It was here
one beautiful morning that Peter and some other of the original disciples (including
Thomas, Nathanael, James and John and two others) went fishing - net fishing at night,
still a big business in Israel. They caught nothing. Peter, who was not known for
having a long fuse, was fuming as he and others rowed their boats back to Capernaum.
There, along the shore, they saw a bonfire and a figure cooking fish. It was Jesus. He
called out to them (and you know how sound travels over water!).

John 21:5-14

[5] Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him,
No. [6] And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall
find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of
fishes. [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,) and did cast himself into the sea. [8] 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. [9] As soon then as they were come to land,
they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. [10] Jesus saith unto
them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. [11] Simon Peter went up, and
drew the net to land full of great fishes, a hundred and fifty and three: and for all
there were so many, yet was not the net broken. [12] Jesus saith unto them, Come
and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it
was the Lord. [13] Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish
likewise. [14] This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples,
after that he was risen from the dead.

So many, many times I have stood on the shoreline, trying to imagine what it was like as
Jesus cooked breakfast for his men. But midway through breakfast, Jesus dropped a
bomb on Peter. Three times He asked Peter, “Do you love me,” and the disciple
answered in the affirmative each time. Then Jesus announced:

John 21:18-24 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. [19] This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God.
And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me. [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? [21] Peter
seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? [22] Jesus saith unto
him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. [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? [24] This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote
these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

To put it bluntly, Jesus told Peter that he, too, would die of crucifixion. John turns and
sees John happily munching breakfast and blurted out, “But what about HIM?” And
Jesus responded, “What is that to you? You follow me!” Sure enough, Nero had Peter
executed by crucifixion, whereas John lived probably another 70 years and died a natural
death.

What a great lesson for all of us. Don’t ever compare yourself to any other believer.
God’s plans for you are personal. What is it to you and me what happens to someone
else? Just follow Jesus - and let Him work it all out!

Next Wednesday night is our annual church business meeting. Please - all of you who
are members, be present for this business. The church does God’s business - what could
be more urgent.

In two weeks we will continue with Route 66 and we will study THE BOOK OF ACTS.
WOW - it’s a blockbuster!