

Walking In The Way Of Jesus; John 18-21
Considering the path from the tomb to the world

So What's Next?

John 21:1-14 NKJV

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: ² Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. ⁴ But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?"

They answered Him, "No."

⁶ And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. ⁹ Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

¹¹ Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

¹⁴ This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

There are so many times after the resurrection that so many different emotions can be seen in the narrative that we have been given; confusion, excitement, disappointment, amazement, fear, misunderstanding, sadness, wonder, as well as many other responses to the circumstances.

So What's Next?

John 21:15-19 NKJV

¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah (John), do you love Me more than these?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (have affection for) You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah (John), do you love Me?"

He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love (have affection for) You.”

He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah (John), do you love (have affection for) Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?”

And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

*Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. ¹⁸ Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” ¹⁹ **This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”***

Remember that we made reference to these words of Jesus regarding what Peter mentioned in his second epistle in the first chapter.

1. We usually don’t get it quickly or easily

We should be able to clearly see the consistent responses of these apprentices. They did not quickly understand their teacher’s instructions regarding the heavenly kingdom. The deep heart and soul principles were not easily embraced as a lifestyle.

2. We are encumbered by our own expectations and limitations

We are still human beings in a material world. We may pray as Jesus instructed, with a pure heart, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done” but most of us struggle with our own expectations of what we think that looks like.

We are limited creatures with limited minds learning to follow the ways of an infinite, limitless God.

3. We typically struggle with waiting

Luke 24:44-49 NKJV ⁴⁴ Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

*⁴⁶ Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ **Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry (stay) in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”***

Psalm 37:7 NLT Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don’t worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.

Psalm 27:14, 31:24, 33:20, 37:34, 130:5 Isaiah 40:31 James 5:7-8

Just some special points of consideration regarding the resurrection of Yeshua:

40 days from the resurrection until the ascension of Christ.

Consider that there are over 20 times in the Scriptures where there is significance to 40 days.

Just a few examples: Genesis 7:12 “rain fell for 40 days and forty nights.” Exodus 24 & 34 record the two times that Moses met with God on Mount Sinai. 1 Kings 19:8 reveals how the prophet Elijah fasted for 40 days. 1 Samuel 17 tells us that Goliath threatened the Israelites for 40 days.

50 days from the resurrection until Pentecost.

Described in Leviticus 23, The Feast of Weeks is the second of the three “solemn feasts” that all Jewish males were required to travel to Jerusalem to attend (Exodus 23:14–17; 34:22–23; Deuteronomy 16:16). This important feast gets its name from the fact that it starts seven full weeks, or exactly 50 days, after the Feast of Firstfruits. Since it takes place exactly 50 days after the previous feast, this feast is also known as “Pentecost” (Acts 2:1), which means “fifty.”

John 21:20-25 NKJV

²⁰ Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” ²¹ Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?”

*²² Jesus said to him, “If I will (desire) that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.” ²³ Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?” ²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ **And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.***

John Piper states:

But I do want to stress what Luke says here — that what Jesus did on the earth in his tough, compassionate, loving, healing deeds and what he said on the earth in his truthful, authoritative, convicting, comforting teaching was only the beginning of his doing and his teaching. This is absolutely crucial for understanding the purpose of the book of Acts and who we are as a church and what this age is all about. Because the clear implication is that *now* — now that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father — he is *not* finished. He is not done with his work and with his teaching. He is not dead and he is not absent. He is alive and he is present. He is doing and he is teaching. The incarnation of the Son of God into human flesh, the once-for-all sacrifice of himself for sin on the cross, the mighty resurrection and ascension to the Father’s right hand is just the *beginning* of what Jesus came to do and to teach. And the rest of what he came to do, he does *now* in this age until the time appointed by the Father for the consummation of all things. That is the point of the book of Acts and that is why we exist as a church and that is what this age is all about. The book of Acts is not just the acts of the apostles; it is the acts of the risen, living, enthroned Jesus. He said in Matthew 16:18, “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” This is Luke’s point. Jesus began his doing and teaching until he was taken up to heaven. Now he goes on completing his doing and teaching — he goes on building his church just like he said he would.

Will you press in and learn more about Christ’s mission in and through His church?