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# GETTING TO KNOW HIM

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Part 3 – God Meets Us Where We Are

John 21:1-9, 15-19

A photograph of two men walking away from the camera on a rocky beach. The man on the left is wearing a long, white, flowing robe, reminiscent of Jesus in the Bible. The man on the right is wearing a dark jacket and jeans. They are walking towards the ocean, which has waves crashing against the rocks. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

# John 21:1

**<sup>1</sup> Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened.**

## **John 21:2**

**<sup>2</sup> Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.**

## **John 21:3**

**<sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.”**

**“We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.**

## John 21:4-5

<sup>4</sup> At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. <sup>5</sup> He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?"  
"No," they replied.

## **John 21:6**

**<sup>6</sup> Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.**

# John 21:7

**7 Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore.**

# John 21:8

**<sup>8</sup> The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore.**



## **John 21:9**

**<sup>9</sup> When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.**

# John 21:15

<sup>15</sup> After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

# John 21:16

**16** Jesus repeated the question:  
“Simon son of John, do you love  
me?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter said,  
“you know I love you.”  
“Then take care of my sheep,”  
Jesus said.

# John 21:17

**17** A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

# John 21:18

<sup>18</sup> “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go.

But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go.”

# John 21:19

**19** Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”

**Background  
to the  
Text**

# God Meets Us Where We Are

- **Jesus Calls Peter to Follow Him**

(Matt. 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-18, Luke 5:1-11)

- **Peter's God Breathed Identity**

(John 1:35-42, Matt. 16:13-20)

- **Peter's Foolish Vow**

(Matt. 26:31-35, Mark 14:27-31, Luke 22:33)

- **Christ's Prayer for Peter**

(Luke 22:31-32)



# God Meets Us Where We Are

- **Peter's Denial**

(Luke 22:54-62, John 18:15-27)

- **The Angel's Message**

(Mark 16:7)

- **Jesus Appeared to Peter first**

(1 Cor. 15:3-8)

- **Peter's Official Reinstatement**

# *Principle #1*

**God's work has never been limited to forgiving our sins. The result of our faith and our ability to follow Christ is completely dependent on God consistently meeting us where we are.**

## **Principle #2**

**The Lord's infinite and eternal power, forgiveness, mercy, and grace constantly transform the toxic wastelands of our past into fertile grounds for the kingdom.**

# The 2 Charcoal Fires



# John 21:15

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# John 21:17

**17** A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

## **Principle #3**

**Trusting God means trusting in Him even when we don't understand what He's doing. But this can only happen through an intimate, loving relationship.**



# John 21:17

**17** A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

## *Principle #4*

Having an intimate relationship with Jesus means we will be ashamed when we sin, NOT when we repent.

# John 21:7

**7 Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore.**

## *Principle #5*

**Truly following Christ  
requires an unconditional  
and incomparable love for  
God.**

## John 21:15

<sup>15</sup> After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than ***THESE***?”

## *Principle #6*

**Following Jesus means going places we don't want to go, doing things we don't want to do, and dying to ourselves daily.**

# John 21:18

<sup>18</sup> “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go.

But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go.”

## **John 21:19**

**19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me."**



## **Principle #7**

**The ways we are broken are expressions of our uniqueness as much as they are expressions of our anointing and our blessedness.**

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