

BYF—May 24, 2026
Resurrection Appearance #7: John 20:30—21:25
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1. Open with prayer and read John 20:30—21:25

2. Review last week with John 20:19-29

3. Purpose Statement for John’s Gospel (20:30-31)

- Some debate over whether the emphasis is on “first-time” belief (i.e., converts) or “long-time” belief (i.e., disciples).
- Personal opinion: such debates miss the point.
- **Question: John tells us his reason for writing in 20:30-31. Of all the signs John has included, which ones have been most convincing to you and why?**
- **Question: Looking ahead to chapter 21, is it an add-on?**

4. The Catch of Fish (21:1-11)

- Peter Gathers the Gang for Fishing (vv. 1-3)
 - Of all the things that the disciples could be doing, going out fishing seems odd to us.
 - Makes sense when you remember that many of the disciples were former fishermen.
 - Also gives credence to view that the giving of the Spirit in ch. 20 was in some manner not the full thing—otherwise they’d be ministering in Jerusalem rather than fishing in Galilee.
 - Perhaps bigger point: analogy of fishing for fish vs. fishing for people.
- Jesus Stands on the Shore and Gives Instructions (vv. 4-6)
- The Disciples Recognize Jesus (vv. 7-8)
 - Is Peter naked? Text in English seems to imply, at least in some versions, that Peter put on clothes to swim to the shore.
 - Important to note that Greek verb “to dress” (“diazonymmi”) actually refers to wrapping around or tucking in clothes.
 - More probable then that Peter put on his outer garment and wrapped it around his waist and legs so he could swim, and then jumped in the water.
- The Nets Are Full (vv. 9-11)
 - Many ancient teachers believed number of fish was symbolic.
 - Example #1: Jerome stated that Greeks believed there were 153 varieties of fish in the world, thus symbolizing all fish.
 - Example #2: Cyril of Alexandria offered 100 pagans, 50 Jews, and the Trinity.
 - Personal opinion: if there’s a symbolic meaning, it is currently lost in antiquity.

- **Question: What do you think Jesus is attempting to show the disciples by letting them catch such a large number of fish?**

5. Peter's Restoration and the Beloved Disciple (21:12-25)

- Breakfast with Jesus (vv. 12-14)
- Questions for Peter (vv. 15-17)
 - Uses of "agapao" and "phileo"
 - First two times used by Jesus, word is "agapao"; third time is "phileo."
 - All three times by Peter is "phileo."
 - Does the word change by Jesus contain any hidden meaning? Probably not...
 - Quote from Leon Morris: "There is no difference on the grounds of Johannine usage for seeing a difference in meaning between these two verbs" (by Gary Burge, *NIV Application Commentary: John*, 588).
 - Important point: Jesus restores and recommissions Peter for service.
 - **Question: What can we learn from this passage about restoring a Christian who has sinned grievously?**
- Prophecy for Peter (vv. 18-19)
- The Beloved Disciple and Postscripts (vv. 20-25)
 - Peter Asks about the Beloved Disciple's Future (vv. 20-21)
 - Jesus Declines to Answer (v. 22)
 - Rumors Start about the Beloved Disciple (v. 23)
 - **Question: What does Jesus' answer to Peter in v. 22 reveal about the danger of comparing ourselves to other Christians?**
 - Two postscripts (vv. 24-25)

6. Close with prayer