

**Fix Your Eyes on Jesus the Forgiver: “Come and have breakfast.”**

**Focus Passage: John 21:1–19**

**Larger Context: Peter’s three denials of Jesus on the eve of His crucifixion and Jesus’ previous two post-resurrection appearances**

**Other Passages Referenced: Proverbs 16:18**

### Sermon Recap

Jesus’ appearance to the disciples in John 21 appears to have been the third recorded instance of Jesus appearing (or revealing Himself) to them after His resurrection. The sermon suggested that after two previous appearances, the disciples remained stuck—stuck without understanding the meaning of Jesus’ resurrection and stuck in their old way of life. To get unstuck, the disciples needed Jesus to rescue them. John 21 indicates that Jesus rescued them from weariness after a night of fishing, from hunger because they hadn’t caught any fish, from isolation by inviting them to breakfast with Him, and from spiritual blindness by revealing Himself to them. Jesus rescued Peter from failure by showing His grace was greater than Peter’s sin. Jesus’ renewed call to Peter to follow Him, reinstated Peter to ministry, and rescued him from lesser things.

Everyone needs to be rescued from weariness, hunger, isolation, blindness, failure, and from giving ourselves to lesser things. The resurrection of Jesus reveals the rescuer. What is your response to Jesus as your rescuer? Figuratively, how do you answer Jesus’ question, “Have you caught any fish?” If you need to be unstuck, do what the disciples did and run to the Rescuer. You may have to go against the wind of your pride. You may feel you are hauling a load of unbearable guilt. Still, run to Jesus the Rescuer. He headed to us by way of the cross to pay the full penalty of our sin. He went to the tomb and rose again from the dead to defeat death as the ultimate enemy.

### Interpretation Helps

- **John as the “beloved disciple” or “disciple whom Jesus loved”** — “At this point, another contrast between the beloved disciple and Peter is introduced into this Gospel. To recall, it was the beloved disciple who was nearest Jesus at the supper and who mediated Peter’s request for information (13:23–25); it was also the other disciple who gained access to the court of the high priest and arranged for Peter to enter (18:15–16); it was likewise he who was at the cross and into his care that the Mother of Jesus was given (19:25–27); and it was the other disciple who outraced Peter to the tomb, and he both saw it empty first and believed (20:4–8). Now it is the beloved disciple who first recognized the risen Jesus and exclaimed to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’”<sup>1</sup>

### Group Gathering

**Group Check-in** — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.
2. Ask if anyone would share how they’ve been hearing and obeying God’s direction.

**Allow the Word to Speak** — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

**READ John 21:119**

<sup>1</sup> Gerald L. Borchert, [John 12–21](#), vol. 25B, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002), 327.

1. What from the passage or sermon was most impactful to you?
2. Were you left with any questions or confusion about the passage or sermon?
3. When John 21:1 says, “after this ...” to what prior event is it referring?
4. Read Luke 5:1–6, which describes an event that occurred when Jesus called His first disciples. What parallels do you see between the two accounts of Jesus instructing the disciples where to cast their nets and Peter’s response to each incident?

**Put the Word into Practice** — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Have you experienced rescue from failure by Jesus? How so?
2. Can you share any ways Jesus has met you and rescued you in the past year from the isolation of the pandemic?
3. Are you feeling stuck in a particular area of your life? What might it look like for Jesus to rescue you?
4. How does confidence that Jesus was resurrected from death to life impact your daily living?

**The Big Question:** What do you sense God's Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group or another trusted Christian and ask them to pray for you.

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** Click [here](#) for some good opportunities.

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several pink roses. The petals are in various stages of bloom, with some showing deep pink and others lighter, almost white, edges. The lighting is soft, creating a gentle, romantic atmosphere. The text is centered horizontally and vertically over the image.

**What does the resurrection reveal?**



# **The resurrection reveals the rescuer**

**—Jn. 21:1-19**

- **Who rescues us from...**

- **Weariness—vv.3-6**

- **Hunger—vv.9-11**

- **Isolation—v.12a**

- **Blindness—v.12b**

- **Failure—vv.15-17**

- **Giving our lives to lesser things—vv.18-19**



**“I always sought to find ways to make what I was doing as meaningful as I could, but shoes are not, in and of themselves, meaningful. Nobody needs what we sell. If every shoe store in America closed its doors tomorrow at 12 o’clock, studies have shown, hardly an American would go barefoot for 15 years.”**

***Kenneth Cole***



**“The undiscovered country  
from whose bourn no traveler returns.”**

***Hamlet 3.1.87-88***