

# **Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus**

## **50) Jesus Qualifies The Disqualified**

***'After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 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. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." 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' (John 21:1-6)***

- ✓ **There were at least 12 post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. He was '*seen of them forty days*' (Acts 1:3)**
- ✓ **He had messaged the disciples to meet Him at the Sea of Galilee**
- ✓ **Peter and six others went fishing. He may have felt disqualified for ministry after denying the Lord**
- ✓ **But they caught no fish all night**
- ✓ **Jesus appeared to them but they failed to recognize Him**

- ✓ He asked if they had anything to eat, to which they replied, 'no'. He told them to cast their net on the other side
- ✓ They did so and caught so many fish they were unable to drag them into the boat
- ✓ This miracle, which mirrored the first miraculous catch, confirmed that the disciples were not disqualified. *'...the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable'* (Rom.11:29)
- ✓ Peter was not disqualified for ministry, but his foundation for ministry was seriously wrong, and needed to be changed

***'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. 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. Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." 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. 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. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead'***

**(John 21:7-14)**

- ✓ **John recognized that it was Jesus**
- ✓ **John is more spiritually perceptive; Peter more active. John understands before Peter does; Peter acts before John does**
- ✓ **Peter dived into the water to swim to Jesus**
- ✓ **The others dragged the net of fish to shore**
- ✓ **Jesus had breakfast ready for them, but suggested they bring some of their fish too**
- ✓ **Peter dragged the net with 153 fish in it, but the net did not break**
- ✓ **They wanted to ask His identity, but didn't because they knew it was Jesus**

✓ **The fish symbolize the souls which the Lord enables us to gather in. In bidding them bring of the fish to Him, He intimated they would have fellowship together, not only in laboring, but also in enjoying the fruits of it! *Jesus said to them... "lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together"* (Jn.4:36)**

✓ **They were not counted till they came to shore!**

✓ **Jesus invited them to dine with Him. This is another refutation of those who said that the resurrection body of Jesus was just a spirit**

***'So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love 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. 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." This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me." (John 21:15-19)***



- ✓ **Jesus carefully arranged Peter's restoration**
- ✓ **'Do you love Me more than these?' Peter is made to see that he could fail Jesus anytime. But their relationship and his calling were not built on his love for Jesus, but Jesus' love for him**
- ✓ **Feed and tend my sheep as I have done to you. They are *His* sheep, not Peter's**
- ✓ **Feed (provide food for), tend (guardianship)**
- ✓ **Jesus predicts that Peter, who avoided death at all costs, would in fact die for Him. 'Follow Me'**
- ✓ **The Great Commission: *Preach the gospel - fishing. Make disciples - Feed and tend my sheep***

***'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?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." 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?" This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. 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 21:20-25)**

**\*Peter asks, 'But what about John? What will happen to him?'**

**\*He still wanted to see himself in relation to the other disciples**

**\*Jesus replied that even if John were to not die as a martyr, that was not to be his concern. He was just to focus on Jesus and to follow Him**

**\*This gave rise to a belief in the early church that John would live until Jesus returned. But all Jesus did was to pose a supposition. Wrong views about the timing of Jesus' return existed even in the first century!**

**\*Peter's ministry was to be a shepherd to God's flock. John's was to be a witness. Peter would be a martyr, John was to stay alive and bear testimony to the deity, humanity, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Book of Revelation**

**\*Some die as martyrs others live to an old age, Heb.11:34,37. Both bear witness to Jesus. *'This is the disciple who testifies of these things...'***

**\*There is more to Jesus than we could ever know. But what we know is sufficient to know God and to witness to others**

**\*Summary: He qualifies the unqualified and the disqualified. Be a witness for Jesus and the gospel!**