

“Gone Fishin’!”

John 21:1-7

5/5/2019

(Show Title Slide)

⁷Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter,
“It’s the Lord!”

– John 12:7

It’s pretty cool that Jesus appeared to his disciples
at the Sea of Galilee after his resurrection.

But the real meat is found in what happens next.

But, let’s take a couple of steps back and get a running start at
today’s story

(Show Last Supper Slide)

If you remember Jesus has his Last Supper with his disciples,
And the next day he dies on the cross on Good Friday

(Show Jesus on Cross Slide)

And then on Sunday,

Which is the day after the Sabbath - which is Saturday

(And, by the way,

are we supposed to do any work on the Sabbath?)

On Easter Sunday we discover that Jesus is raised from the dead

(Show Garden Tomb Slide)

Mary finds the empty tomb

And tells the disciples

The disciple who Jesus loved, and Peter both run to the tomb

And confirm that the tomb is empty and return to where staying

After they leave, Mary first sees two angels

And then she sees, and eventually recognizes, Jesus

This happens Sunday morning

Sunday evening, Jesus appears in a locked room

Where the disciples are afraid and hiding

Thomas wasn’t with them Sunday evening

And says he can’t believe it until he sees Jesus for himself

And what happens eight days later?

(Jesus appears to Thomas)

(Show Jesus and Thomas Slide)

And might I add that even then

Eight days later!

The doors of the room where they’re staying are *still* locked

(Show Title Slide)

And then we come to today’s story

¹Later, Jesus himself appeared again to his disciples at the Sea
of Tiberius. This is how it happened:

– John 21:1

So stay with me here...

The disciples have been following Jesus for a couple years.

They are convinced that he is the Messiah from God

They not only watched him die on the cross

But even more importantly met with him

after he was raised from the dead

Twice!

And what are Simon Peter and the guys doing

on the Sea of Galilee?

(fishing)

Are they telling the word about Jesus?

Are they meeting with other believers of Jesus and making plans

Of how they are going to turn the world upside down?

No.

They went fishing!

How many times does the resurrected Jesus

need to appear to them?

We’re told later in this passage,

¹⁴This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples
after he was raised from the dead.

– John 21:14

It’s number four if we count the appearance with Mary

on Easter Sunday morning

I guess sometimes when we aren’t sure what to do,

We just do what we are most comfortable doing

And why did they recognize this guy on the shore

Who told them to cast their net on the other side of the boat?

Because that’s what Jesus did a couple of years before,

When he first called this group of fishermen to follow him

Fisherman go fishing – what do you do?

So they make it to shore in today’s story with all those fish

and have breakfast with Jesus

(Show Blank Slide)

And then we hear this...

¹⁵When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter,
“Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

Simon replied, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶Jesus asked a second time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Simon replied, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷He asked a third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was sad that Jesus asked him a third time, “Do you love
me?” He replied, “Lord, you know everything; you know I love
you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

How many times did Jesus ask Peter if Peter loved Jesus?

(Three)

How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus

Just before Jesus was nailed to the cross?

(Three)

We don’t think that this is a coincidence

And if we’d read this story in the original Greek language,

We see something interesting

When Jesus is asking Peter if Peter loves him,

He is using the Greek word ἀγαπάω

Peter is answering Jesus with the Greek word φιλέω

Ἀγαπή means roughly to love with everything you’ve got,

and unconditionally

Φιλία on the other hand means a friendly or a brotherly affection

They are of different qualities of love

And when Jesus asks the question the third time, he uses φιλέω

To perhaps point out to Peter that Peter

is not quite getting the question

Perhaps that is why Peter was distressed when he heard

Jesus ask him for the third time

By the way, when Jesus is with his disciples at the Last Supper
And he says,
³⁴ *"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I
have loved you, so you also must love each other. ³⁵ This is how
everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love
each other."*

– John 13:34-35

Jesus is using Ἀγάπη all throughout this conversation

(*Show Title Slide*)

Sometimes we are like Peter and disciples,
And not just in deciding to go fishing
Instead of following through on being sent out by Jesus

Sometimes we are like Peter and disciples,
It's not that we intentionally ignore what Jesus is saying to us
It's just that we aren't listening and paying attention

As the disciples sat around the table at the last supper,
They might of thought that this "love stuff" sounded good
And that it wasn't anything new
After all, how many times do guys say,
especially after some wine,
"I love you, Bro!"

³⁴ *"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I
have loved you, so you also must love each other.*

But then that Friday, after that Thursday night, came

And there was Jesus, dead on that cross.

Just as I have loved you...

They realized that it meant something completely
different 12 hours later

Jesus loves you that much

And he then asks how much we are going to love in return
And he asks us to feed and take care of his lambs and sheep

The lambs and the sheep, by the way, of the Good Shepherd

How did Jesus say it just 10 chapters earlier in the Gospel of John?

¹¹ *"I am the good shepherd.*

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

– John 10:11

Feeding and taking care of Jesus' lambs and sheep...
That's what we are going to do in about three minutes
As we celebrate Oliver's baptism

Feeding and taking care of Jesus' lambs and sheep...
That's what we've been doing for the last, what, 10 years
Ever since Lydia was first invited to our church by Dick Adams

Yeah, It's pretty cool that Jesus appeared to the disciples
While they were off fishing
at the Sea of Galilee after his resurrection.

But the real meat is found in what happens next.

¹⁵ *When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter,
"Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?
Feed my lambs...
Follow me.*

And when you hear Jesus asking about ἀγαπάω love,
Instead of getting sad or scared,
How about asking for God's help as you love in return

John Frederick put it this way in one of the devotions this week
From *The Upper Room Disciplines* book
*Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" and commands Peter to
feed his lambs, to tend his sheep, and to feed his sheep. Jesus
charges Peter with shepherding the flock, but Peter never
ceases to be a sheep in need of communion with Christ, the
living bread.*

*This is an important lesson for us as ministers, whether we are
ordained or lay. Before we can feed others, we must be fed by
Christ; after we become shepherds, we remain sheep in need of
shepherding. Christ calls all of his disciples to continually
become like little children, living in complete dependence upon
him so that we can experience the reality of the kingdom of God.
As we reflect upon our walk with Lord, let us pray to be both
sheep and shepherd.*

– *The Upper Room Disciplines 2019*

Let us not just baptize Oliver,
But also allow us to be fed with Holy Communion by Jesus

(Baptismal Covenant II

(p. 39-43)