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UN-PETRIFIED

Peter's pride un-petrified. That's what happened one morning on the beach at the Sea of Galilee. Peter was humbled, contemplating himself and his failures. He was afflicted with foot & mouth disease: open big macho mouth, insert mucho foot. Peter had wanted to make himself seem big and others little. Sincere, but proud, he didn't think ahead of time what to say. Again, he'd only made himself look a fool.

But this time, it was different. Jesus' life was at stake. And Peter had denied Him. In John 13 he boasted he was ready to die with Jesus. In John 18 He struck with a sword at His arrest. Then, moments later, with oaths, he denied he even knew Jesus. Then they killed Him. *If only Peter could do it all over again!*

Amazingly, Jesus rose from the dead. In John 20, Peter saw the empty tomb, then later Easter Sunday, he saw the resurrected Jesus with his own eyes. Even the scars from the cross. Incredible! And Jesus spoke so warmly and directly as He commissioned His disciples, with His peace, purpose and power.

FISHING - Now, in John 21, we see seven disciples at the sea of Galilee, as Jesus instructed. As they waited, Peter said in v.3, "***I'm going fishing.***" Great idea, and they all went with him. After all, before Jesus called them three years ago, most had been commercial fishermen. They fished all night, as usual, and caught nothing. Not unusual. At daybreak, about 100 yards from shore, a man calls, "***hey guys, have any fish?***" Nope. "***Cast your net on the right side of the boat.***" Do you like advice? As professional fishermen, they probably didn't either. But they could not haul the net because of the quantity of fish.

John said, "***It is the Lord!***" How did he know, in the early light of daybreak? The scene rang a bell. They were in their old fishing grounds, where something similar happened three years before. Luke 5 records it. After Jesus used Peter's boat as a pulpit, He told them to put out their nets. Peter protested, "*we've toiled all night, but because You say, we will.*" They caught so many fish it swamped their boats.

Peter, Andrew, James, John all left their nets and boats that day, because Jesus called them to become fishers of men. "***From now on, you'll be catching mankind.***" Now today, three years later, John was first to discern, and Peter first to act. He plunged into the water and headed to shore. There's a lesson in the background here: if you've denied the Lord, GO to Him! If you've sinned against someone, go to that person, repent, forgive, and be reconciled. Jesus has paid for sin!

BREAKFAST - Verse 9 says when they all got to shore, they saw a charcoal fire, with fish and bread. Jesus had fixed them breakfast on the beach! When I was a student in Israel many years ago, one of the most memorable scenes was the early morning fog at a seaside pier along the sea of Galilee, as fisherman brought their catch ashore. The scene in John 21 must have kindled memories for the disciples too. In Luke 24, Jesus ate broiled fish with them after His resurrection. In John 6, Jesus fed over 5,000 people with two fish and five loaves, just up the hillside, near where they were today.

But the scene must have affected Peter most, reminding him of that awful night, recorded in John 18. The servants and officers were around a charcoal fire, and they asked Peter about Jesus. Then a rooster crowed, right after Peter denied Jesus for the third time. Peter remembers. Pride. Shame. Tears.

Jesus is tending this fire, but He didn't bring up the past. He asked for some of the fish they caught. Peter, strong as an ox and wanting to make amends, hauled the whole net ashore, and they counted 153 fish. Numerous erroneous theories abound as to that number, but the best answer is, they caught 153 fish! A big catch, and the net was not torn - another miracle by the sea! Another proof of Jesus' resurrection.

In v.12, Jesus said "***come and have breakfast.***" Food tastes best after hard work. "*And nothin' says lovin' like somethin' from the grill.*" Jesus took the bread and fish and gave it to them. A powerful reminder and object lesson of who Jesus is - *the Son of God who came to serve and to save!* This must have been a wonderful time of food and fellowship. This episode is one reason so many churches have men's prayer breakfasts, for men willing to put more interest in Jesus than in projecting their own macho image.

It's an important lesson: Do what Jesus says, and you'll be blessed. He says "***catch My fish.***" If you do, you'll catch a great harvest of souls! Peter obeyed, proclaimed the Good News - and in Acts 2 saw 3,000 souls come to faith in Jesus! Who could YOU share the good news about Jesus with today?