

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Dec 2013 John 12 Live Selflessly
- 2) 08 Dec John 13 Serve Humbly
- 3) 15 Dec John 14 Believe Exclusively
- 4) 22 Dec Luke 1-2 Christmas Message
- 5) 29 Dec John 15:1-25 Stay Open and Obedient
- 6) 05 Jan 2014 John 15:26 – 16:33 Depend on the Spirit
- 7) 12 Jan John 17 Honor Jesus
- 8) 19 Jan Psalm 139 Value Every Life
- 9) 26 Jan John 18:1-27 Our Messiah - Abused
- 10) 02 Feb John 18:28-40; 19:1-16 Our King - Condemned
- 11) 09 Feb John 19:17-42 Our Savior - Crucified
- 12) 16 Feb John 20 Live in Resurrection Power
- 13) 23 Feb John 21 Follow with Renewed Purpose

INTRODUCTION

- What is more important to Jesus: church programs, music, ministries, or people?
- What should have top priority with us? Taking care of people or taking care of things?

Passage	Comments
John 21:1-14	<p>Great Revelation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. Seven disciples headed back to their previous jobs – Fish all night to sell their catch in the morning • vv4-6. Jesus gave them one more shock-&-awe miracle – a boat load of fish – but they still had to net ‘em, haul ‘em in, and filet ‘em • v7. John (the disciple whom Jesus loved / His closest and dearest earthly friend) is the first to recognize Him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Do you think our closeness to the Savior helps us recognize spiritual truths quicker? ♦ How did John become the dearest friend to Jesus? ♦ Peter was the first to rush & greet the Lord. Do you think he overcame his trauma from denying Jesus? ♦ Did Peter express a deeper love for the Lord than John (by rushing to greet Him), or just a different expression of his love & devotion? Luke 7:40-43 • v11. Peter must’ve been one big dude to haul those fish in single-handedly. Why is this verse in the Bible? • v14. This is the 3rd incident of Jesus appearing to His disciples within 40 days. Where is the urgency of the Gospel? Why isn’t Jesus making the most of His time by spending every waking hour with His disciples to more fully explain their new mission and directives?
21:15-17	<p>Gracious Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv15-17. Peter denied the Lord 3 times, and now the Lord is asking Peter if he loves the Lord 3 times <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Do you LOVE <agape> me more than THESE?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THESE: Possibly alluding to his friends or job • Peter says “You know I like <phileo> you, Lord” • Jesus says “FEED my lambs” 2. “Do you LOVE <agape> me?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter says “You know I like <phileo> you” • Jesus says “SHEPHERD My sheep” 3. Jesus says “Do you LIKE <phileo> me?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter says: “You know I like <phileo> you” • Jesus says “FEED my Sheep” ♦ Jesus stressed the following to Peter and the others: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Apostles were to notice that Peter was fully restored and accepted by Christ 2. Peter (and by application, the rest of us) should serve the Lord whether we have a mature Agape Love for Him or we just like Him a little bit

Passage	Comments
21:18-23	<p>Tough Days are Ahead, But Follow Me...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v18. “...you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you and bring you where you do not want to go” – the early church understood this as a prophecy of crucifixion • v19. Jesus made Peter aware of how he was going to die – and then added: “FOLLOW ME” • vv20-23. Peter had to ask “But what about the other guy?” Jesus essentially told him “Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own?” Mat 20:15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In other words, it wasn’t any of Peter’s business ♦ Peter need only to be concerned with his service
Church Tradition on Peter’s demise	<p>Peter was imprisoned in total darkness, manacled to a post, cruelly tortured, and unable to lie down for 9 months. In spite of all the torture he endured, Peter converted 3 of his jailers and 47 others</p> <p>Peter’s parting words to his wife as she was being led out to martyrdom are recorded by Clement of Alexandria: He rejoiced and called to her very encouragingly and comfortingly, addressing her by name and saying, “Remember the Lord”</p> <p>Peter refused to die in the same position as his Lord, declaring he was unworthy. The taunting Romans granted his wish & crucified him upside down in Nero’s circus, ~ 67 AD</p> <p>Source: W. S. McBirmie, <i>The Search for the Twelve Apostles</i>, (Living Books), 1986, pages 64-75</p>
21:24-25	<p>Genuine Record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “...the world itself cannot contain the books that could be written.” • All that we have to share with the rest of the world is contained in the Bible consisting of about 1200 pages • The words contained in the Bible are useless without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Could we serve the Lord so faithfully if, like Peter, we knew how tragically our life was going to end?
- Can we accept evil from the hand of the Lord as well as good?
- If so, then let’s continue to feed and shepherd those whom God has given to us.

NEXT WEEK: Proverbs. Wisdom for the ages.

