



What Happens When a Powerful Choleric Encounter the Risen Christ?

A Close Encounter with Living Love • Part 3

Lesson 9

A Fish Fry Close Encounter Around the Fire

John 21:15-25

1. THE CARNAL (CASUAL?) FOLLOWERS: The Seven Were Busy but BARREN Disciples. John 21:1-14

Four Truths for Busy but Barren Disciples

- **RECOGNIZE** that we live in *the tension* between *the now* and *the not yet*. (1-2)
- **RESIST** *the temptation* to return to our old way of life. (21:3)
- **RESPOND** to *being tested* by the risen Lord with an obedient faith to new way of life that is on mission for Him and His people! (4-6)

Way of Life	The Carnal/Casual Disciples Old Way of Life	The Risen Lord's New Way of Life <i>Galatians 5:13-26</i>
Our PURPOSE	SELF-CENTERED Fishing for Fish	CHRIST-CENTERED Following Christ to Fish for People (Evangelism) and to Feed His Sheep (Discipleship) on Mission
Our PRIORITY	SATISFY self through our lusts	SERVE others through Christ's love
Our PURSUITS	OPPORTUNITIES for self	OBEDIENCE to Christ Before All Else OBLIGATION to Others Before Self
Our POWER	FLESH Frustration and Fruitlessness	SPIRIT Fulfillment and Fruitfulness
Our PERSONALITY	WORKS of the Flesh = <i>LUST!</i>	FRUIT of the Spirit = <i>LOVE!</i>

- **RELISH** *being treated* by the risen Lord to the benefits of the new way of life! (7-14)

2. THE CONVICTING ENCOUNTER: Peter Is Repeatedly Questioned for a RESTORING Reason!

John 21:15-25

- **Jesus' Repeated Question:** "*Simon, Son of John, do you love Me more than these?*" John 21:15-17

WHO Is Questioned? "*Simon, Son of John*" (3x)

Old NAME v. New NAME: "*Peter*" (John 1:42)

Old NATURE v. New NATURE: "*The Rock*" (Matthew 16:15-18)

Old LOYALTIES v. New LOYALTIES: *Fully Devoted Follower of Christ* (Luke 5:1-11)

*When it comes to your lifestyle & decision-making, WHO are you?
Would Christ call you casual & carnal or spiritual & sold out?*

**A LIVING LOVE is a result of KNOWING & LIVING according to our POSITION in Christ:
Forsake All to Follow Christ!**

WHAT Is the Question? “Do you love Me more than these?”

More than what? *More than* **FISH & FISHING?** and/or more than **THE OTHERS DO?**

John 13:36-38; Matthew 26:33; Mark 14:29, “Even if they all fall away, I will not,”

*When it comes to your lifestyle & decision-making, **WHAT** do you love more?
Yourself & your agenda or Christ & His agenda for your life? Satisfying self or serving others?*

**A LIVING LOVE results in KNOWING & LIVING According to our PRIORITIES in Christ:
Jesus, Others, You!**

WHY the Question? “Do you love Me?” (3x)

Personal forgiveness for **RECONCILIATION** with the Lord! (Luke 24:34; 1Corinthians 15:5)

Public restatement for **RESTORATION** with others!

*When it comes to your lifestyle & decision-making, **HOW** do you prove you really love the risen Lord?
Does your walk match your talk? Are you a fully devoted follower who is fishing and feeding?*

**A LIVING LOVE results in KNOWING & LIVING According to our PURPOSE in Christ:
Fishing & Feeding!**

➤ **Peter’s Repeated Answer:** “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you!” John 21:15-17

“Yes, Lord” (2x)

“you know that I love you” (2x)

Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time... “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

➤ **Jesus’ Repeated Command/Challenge/Commission:** “Feed My sheep!” John 21:15-17

*“You ask me what forgiveness means; it is the wonder of being trusted again by God
in the place where I disgraced Him” - Rita Snowden*

“The fisher’s work is followed by the shepherd’s work.” - B. F. Wescott

Our Love for the Lord Is Shown by SERVING His People!

- 1) Serving is being a good **STEWARD** of my gifts to build up the Body of Christ. 1Peter 4:8-11
- 2) Serving proves the **SINCERITY** of our love. John 21:15-17
- 3) Serving leads to personal **SACRIFICE**. John 21:18-19
- 4) Serving requires **SINGLE-MINDEDNESS**. John 21:20-22

3. THE CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE RESTORING KIND: The Living Lord with Living Love!

A Living Love for the Living Lord Is Proven by...

- **What** it does: **DO FOR OTHERS WHAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR YOU (FISH AND FEED!)**
- **HOW** it does it: **BY DYING TO SELF!**
- **HOW** long it does it: **UNTIL DEATH OR THE SECOND COMING!**
- **WHY** it does it: **BECAUSE OF LOVE FOR THE RISEN LORD!**

What Is the Living Proof We Really Love the Risen Lord?

*We will follow Him and sacrificially do for others what has been done for us—
fish for people and help feed His sheep!*

The Stranger on the Shore

by Michael Card

In the early morning mist
They saw a Stranger on the sea shore
He somehow seemed familiar
Asking what the night had brought
With taut anticipation then
They listen to His order
And pulling in the net
Found more than they had ever caught

The one He loved first recognized
The stranger there was Jesus
And he alone remembered
This had happened once before
The one who had denied Him
Who had once walked on the water
Jumped in and swam to Him
To be confronted on the shore

Chorus

You need to be confronted
By the Stranger on the shore
You need to have Him search your soul
You need to hear the call
You need to learn exactly
What it means for you to follow
You need to realize that He's
asking for your all

The meal He had prepared for them
Was waiting on the fire
The smell of bread
The sizzle of the fish upon the coals
The laughter and the joy
That once more being all together
They didn't realize that He was
searching all their souls

Then came the painful questions
That would pierce the soul of Simon
A threefold chance to reaffirm
the love he had denied
The gentle eyes that saw his heart
And waited for an answer
Had seen the look upon his face
The moment he had lied

Chorus

Now realize that you must
Face and answer all His questions
As you stand before the Stranger
On the shore inside your heart

