



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 145 - Back Home to Galilee (John 21)

### Peter Goes Fishing

The Jewish Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread lasted a week. That's why Thomas was still in Jerusalem when the risen Jesus appeared to him a week after the other disciples had first seen Him. When the festival concluded the disciples left Jerusalem and returned to Galilee, where Jesus had spent the most time in His ministry.

- Why might Jesus' disciples have been eager to leave Jerusalem and return to Galilee?

It was good to finally get away from the dangerous enemies in Jerusalem and be back in their familiar home region. But Jesus had also given the disciples a command through the women who first saw Him Easter morning, "... 'Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me'" (Matthew 28:10b).

- Since they didn't know exactly when or where Jesus would appear next, why might it be natural for Peter to go fishing and not wait around for Jesus to show up?

### Jesus on the Shore

"Cast the net on the right side of the boat." This wasn't the first time the disciples experienced a miraculous catch of fish, after spending all night without a single catch. Early in His ministry Jesus had worked the same miracle under similar circumstances (see Luke 5:4-7).

- What lesson might this miracle have taught them about their sometimes frustrating future work as apostles "fishing" for men?
- What are the greatest frustrations in your faith life?
- Why might Peter have been in a bigger hurry to get to Jesus than the other disciples?

### Jesus Restores Peter

Peter still felt terrible guilt over his cowardice in denying Jesus.

- What are some ways people try to deal with the tremendous guilt they experience?
- Why is it essential to deal with our guilt God's way?

Jesus' way of dealing with Peter's guilt was confession and absolution. In his answer to Jesus' question, Peter showed he had learned his lesson. Knowing his weakness and his sinfulness, Peter couldn't profess "agape" for Jesus, the Greek word for sacrificial love. He could only speak of his affection, his friendship for Jesus. Christ's showed His complete forgiveness and restoration as He continued to command him to feed and care for His sheep and lambs.

- Compared to his failures in the high priest's courtyard early Good Friday morning, what courage and joy could Peter take when Jesus' predicted his coming martyrdom?
- Where should we look for confidence when we want to share Jesus' Name with others?