



Session 9



FOLLOW JESUS

John 21:1-19

For many days Jesus appeared to many people so there could be no doubt that He truly had been raised from the dead. Peter, in a rare moment of subdued action, decided to go fishing. Peter had a lot to process considering everything that had happened the week before. As Peter likely pondered his role in what was to come, he probably needed the familiarity of the fishing industry to help him process his feelings. Since the Bible never speaks of motivation, we don't know, but we can be sure that God needed Peter to be fishing. Six other disciples accompanied Peter on his excursion—a trip none of them would ever forget.

John's Gospel includes many stories of events that occurred at night. It seems fitting the final story John shares of Jesus' interactions with His disciples occurs after the disciples had been up all night fishing. As the morning dawn approached, Jesus stood on the shore and casually asked if the men had caught anything. Answering in the negative, Jesus told the men to drop their nets on the right side of the boat. Following Jesus' instructions, the men hauled in an immediate massive catch of fish. John recognized Jesus immediately. In what seems to be overjoyed excitement, Peter didn't wait for an invitation; he dove directly into the water and swam to shore as quickly as he could to reach Jesus.

When the disciples arrived on shore, they saw Jesus was cooking fish over a charcoal fire. The only other reference to a charcoal fire in the New Testament is in John 18:18 and is the fire by which Peter warmed himself before he denied knowing Jesus. John uses these two fires to show that Peter's restoration was complete. The first fire symbolized a dark day for Peter. This new fire was a symbol of Christ's forgiveness of Peter's sin. Peter had sinned against Jesus, and he knew it, but Jesus loved Peter and forgave him. Peter would leave that day and go on to share the gospel with all those whom he saw and ultimately give his own life for Christ.