



4. Peter after the Cross

The Disciples spent 3 years with Jesus. They saw Him feed the 5,000, walk on water, heal the blind, and raise His friend Lazarus from the grave. They saw Him die for them and for the world. Then they saw Jesus raised from the dead ... not just back to life ... but raised to resurrected life.

Jesus appeared to His men at least 10 times after the Resurrection ... and to as many as 500 at one time.

He had conquered death for all of them ... and for all of us. One of His last appearances, before His Acts 1 Ascension, was on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus cooked some bread and fish for His men. Then, on that shore, He had a revealing conversation with Peter. To really understand it, we need to know that

two different words for *love* are used in that conversation in John 21. One word, the big word for *love*, is *agape* ... meaning unlimited co-liability. ... a total love. That's the love mentioned in John 3:16. The other word is *phileo* ... meaning a lesser love, a brotherly love ... a friendship love. Translating John 21 that way, Jesus said to Peter, *Do you love me?* Peter answered, *I'm your friend.* Jesus said a second time, *Do you love Me?* Peter, said, *You know that I am your friend.* Then Jesus switched to the lesser love word in His third question ... *Peter, are you My friend?* And Peter answered, *Lord, You know all things. You know that I am your friend.*

If Jesus said to you, *Do you love Me?* What would you say? Do you love Him ... or are you just His friend?

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