

Breakfast with Jesus

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[0 : 00] but if we could, with the Lord's help and the Lord's enabling this morning, if we could turn back to that portion of Scripture that we read, the Gospel according to John, John chapter 21.

John chapter 21. We're going to look at the whole passage together, but if we read again at verse 12. John 21 at verse 12.

Jesus said to them, the disciples, come and have breakfast. Come and have breakfast.

As you know, one question that parents with young children are often asked is, are they good on their food? Are they good on their food?

Because as you know, some children and some adults, they can be very fussy when it comes to food, where the children or even adults, they don't like their greens, they don't like their fruit, they don't like their veg.

[1 : 09] The problem I had as a child was that I was very good on my food. And Alison has photographic evidence that I was very, very good, too good on my food.

And now as an adult, I'm still good on my food. Because like many people, I eat too much, and probably this afternoon I'll eat too much, and I eat too much of the wrong thing. But there are some people, and they love trying, and they love tasting food.

And they do it not just out of hunger, but they do it as a hobby, where they are good at cooking food, and they're also good at critiquing food. In fact, they're so good on their food that they've been given the nickname.

I'm sure you've heard the nickname, foodies. That's an unusual nickname, but they're called foodies, people who love cooking and critiquing food. But you know, when we come to the Gospels, we see that Jesus was someone who was good on his food.

Jesus was good on his food. And I say that because Jesus, as you know, he not only went around the towns and villages helping and healing the sick, and he went about preaching and proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom.

[2 : 18] When you read through the Gospels, we also find Jesus eating food and enjoying fellowship with many, many people. Jesus is often found eating food and enjoying fellowship with people.

In fact, Jesus did it so often that he made a name for himself. He was known as the one who ate with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus ate with people so often, he was known as the one who ate with publicans or tax collectors and sinners.

And over the next four Sunday mornings, I'd like us to do a short series entitled Eating with Jesus. Eating with Jesus. It might sound like a strange series, but you'd be surprised to know how many times in the Gospels Jesus was eating with people.

But you know, the wonderful thing about the Gospel, the glory of the Gospel, is that Jesus invites us to eat with him. Jesus invites us to eat with him.

He says to us in the book of Revelation, there in Revelation chapter 2, Jesus says, Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come to him and eat with him and he with me.

[3 : 36] My friend, Jesus invites us to eat with him. And so over the next four Sunday mornings, I want us to think about eating breakfast, eating lunch, eating dinner, and eating supper with Jesus.

Eating breakfast, lunch, dinner, and supper with Jesus. And as you'd expect this morning, we're beginning with the most important meal of the day. As we were saying to the children, the most important meal of the day is breakfast.

It's breakfast with Jesus. And I want us to think about breakfast with Jesus under three headings. We see here in John chapter 21, we see the morning miracle, the morning meal, and the morning

message.

The morning miracle, the morning meal, and the morning message. It's breakfast with Jesus. So first of all, we see the morning miracle. The morning miracle.

Look at verse 1 of chapter 21. It says, After this, Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. And he revealed himself in this way.

[4 : 41] Simon Peter, Thomas, called the twin, Nathaniel of Canaan, Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, that's James and John, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, I'm going fishing.

They said to him, we will go with you. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. As you can see, John chapter 21, and as we read, it's the concluding chapter to John's gospel.

But throughout his gospel, John seeks to emphasize and explain to us the identity of Jesus. That's why John wrote his gospel. John wrote his gospel in order to make sure that we get the identity of Jesus right.

Because if we get the identity of Jesus wrong, we'll misunderstand the gospel, and we will fail to see that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the only Savior of sinners.

In fact, in the last verse of John chapter 20, the previous chapter, John tells us about his passion. He tells us about his purpose as a gospel writer.

[5 : 47] He says there in verse 31, these are written, this gospel is written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

And so John, as a gospel writer, John's passion, John's purpose as a writer of this gospel was that you believe in Jesus Christ. Not just believe in Jesus Christ with your head, but you believe in Jesus Christ with your heart.

You're to believe in Jesus Christ with all your heart. As Paul teaches us in Romans, you're to believe in your heart and also confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and then you'll be saved because that's what these disciples did.

They believed in their heart and they confessed with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. But here in the concluding chapter of John's gospel, we find the disciples flat.

The disciples are flat. They're struggling in their faith and they're struggling in their faith because they actually think that Jesus has forgotten them and forsaken them.

[6 : 56] Even though Jesus had appeared to the disciples at different points and in different places, John tells us this is also the third time that he's appeared to them after his resurrection. And yet, the disciples are flat.

They're completely floored by the whole situation of what has just happened. They still don't know what to do with themselves. They're flat. They're struggling in their faith.

They think that Jesus has forgotten them. He's forsaken them after his death and resurrection. And so, what do they do? What are these flat and disciples that feel that they're just falling apart and what do they do?

What do they do? Well, they do what most of us would do. They give up. They throw in the towel and they go back to work. They go back to their day job.

What does Peter say? Verse 3, I'm going fishing. He had spent his whole life as a fisherman until Jesus called him. Jesus said, I'll make you fishers of men. Come, follow me.

[7 : 56] And yet, here is Peter at the end of Jesus' life and ministry. He's completely flat, completely floored, thinks Jesus has forsaken him and forgotten all about him. And he says, right, I'm going fishing.

And how do the rest respond? We're going with you. Nobody stopped him. Nobody said, Peter, don't be daft. They said, no, no, we're going with you. These disciples, they're flat.

They're struggling in their faith. They had given up everything to follow Jesus. They'd left their homes, their families, their jobs. Peter and James and John, they'd probably closed their fishing business, which inevitably left them to struggle financially.

But now they're struggling in their faith because they'd left everything. They'd left absolutely everything to follow Jesus. And now they're saying, for what? What was it all for?

In their minds, they think, Jesus, you've forsaken us. You've forgotten about us. They're completely floored and flat. I wonder if you ever feel like that.

[8 : 59] Do you ever feel that because of your sin or your sickness that you're going through or sorrow in your life or even the situation that you're faced with, do you ever feel that Jesus has somehow forgotten you or that you're forsaken?

Because when life throws a curveball at you that you never saw coming or you never thought ever possible, you know, it can often stun you and shake you and even shock you to the point that it leaves you flat and struggling in your faith because you think, well, the Lord must have forgotten me.

He's forsaken me. I knew him once. He was with me all the time. I felt him so close then, but not now. And when you feel that everything seems to be catching up on you and caving in on you, everything seems to go from bad to worse.

That's what it was like for the disciples. They were flat. They were floored. They were struggling in their faith, so they go fishing. And John tells us their fishing trip was a disaster.

Absolute disaster. That night, we're told, end of verse 3, that night they caught nothing. They caught nothing. And you know, for fishermen, there must be nothing more demoralizing and depressing than fishing all night and catching nothing.

[10 : 27] You have nothing to show for all your hard work. You have nothing to take home. And undoubtedly, they would have felt like absolute failures. They're flat.

They're floored. They're struggling in their faith. They go fishing, and now they feel like failures.

They feel like they're nets. Completely empty. They're completely empty.

But I love what John writes in verse 4. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore, yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

Just as day was breaking, the night was becoming day. The sun was beginning to rise.

Just as day was breaking. It's just like we were singing earlier in Psalm 30. You could see these disciples weeping may for a night endure. They're catching nothing.

[11 : 23] But at morn doth joy arise. And just as day was breaking, joy arose as Jesus appeared. Joy arose as Jesus appeared. And then we read in verse 5, Jesus says to them, Children, do you have any fish?

And they answered him, No. And it wouldn't have been a gentle and gracious no, speaking back to Jesus. It would have been a furious no.

It would have been a frustrated no. It would have been a fed up no. Have you caught any fish? No. We have been fishing all night and we have caught nothing.

Absolutely nothing. Verse 6. Follow with me. Verse 6 he says, says to them, Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. So they cast it and they were not able to haul it in because of the quantity of fish.

Do you notice that even though the disciples didn't know at that point that it was Jesus standing on the shore, they still did what he said. They still followed his command. They still listened to what he had to say because in their minds, well, they were floored, they were flat, they were struggling in their faith, they thought that they were forgotten and forsaken and absolutely like failures and they had caught nothing all night so, well, they had nothing to lose.

[12 : 46] So, throw the net over. They cast their net and despite feeling flat and floored and forgotten and forsaken and like failures, despite what they felt in themselves, these disciples took a step of faith and they cast their net and in that moment their net was full.

Why? Because they became focused with Jesus. Their net was full because they became focused with Jesus. Verse 7, that disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, it is the Lord.

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment for he was stripped for work and he threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat dragging the net full of fish for they were not far from the land but about a hundred yards off.

You know, this morning miracle reminded and reassured the disciples and you know, it ought to remind and reassure us that despite how we feel, whether we feel flat or floored or forsaken or forgotten or we feel like an absolute failure in our faith, we need to cast our net.

We need to keep casting the net. And we need to keep casting because as Peter teaches us, Peter, this Peter teaches us in his letter, we are to cast all our cares upon the Lord because he cares for us.

[14 : 24] And isn't it amazing that Peter in his letter, he used that word cast. He was familiar with what casting was and what casting did. He was throwing it out.

And you know, sometimes that's what we need to do. We need to cast our net. We need to cast all our cares upon the Lord because when we do, our net will be full because we're focused on Jesus. Our net will be full because we're focused on Jesus. And so we see the morning miracle. But then secondly, we see the morning meal.

The morning meal. Look at verse 9. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place with fish laid out on it and bread. Jesus said to them, bring some of the fish that you have just caught.

So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, come and have breakfast.

[15:27] Now none of the disciples dared ask him, who are you? They knew it was the Lord. As you know, and as we were saying to the children, breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

In fact, that's why many schools, they have breakfast clubs in order to ensure that children have some food in their tummies in order to fuel their body for the day ahead.

But maybe you're one of those people, you know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and so you're persuaded that porridge is the only way to start the day. You're a porridge person.

You start the day every day with porridge. While for others, it's cereal, whether it's Cheerios or Frosties, some people it's toast or fruit or croissants or pancakes, the best way to start the day.

In our fast-paced culture, where everyone is rushing and running around, a cereal bar or a coffee to go is probably the way that many people start the day.

[16:29] But I think everyone would agree that the best way to start your holiday is by eating a full Scottish breakfast on the ferry because you can't beat a ferry breakfast.

The bacon and the eggs and the sausages and the beans and the hash browns and the mushrooms and also the toast and the lots of brown sauce and the coffee with it.

You can't beat it. I hope you're starving at the thought of it. I'm absolutely starving. But one breakfast everyone could and probably should do without and they could avoid is kippers and poached egg.

Kippers and poached egg. And I mention kippers and poached egg because, and even remembering it, I remember years ago working in the caber-fe. I was doing maintenance in the kitchen first thing in the morning.

And I can still remember the smell of the kippers that were being served for breakfast. And thinking to myself, who in their right mind would have fish for breakfast?

[17:34] The smell was unreal. And thinking about it, the smell comes back to you. And yet surprisingly, that's the morning meal Jesus prepared and provided for his disciples. They were having fish for breakfast.

As you read, when the disciples came ashore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish and bread being cooked on it. Now I doubt that Jesus was cooking kippers on toast for breakfast. Because the fish that were actually caught in the Sea of Galilee, very interesting, the fish that they often caught in the Sea of Galilee was carp or catfish.

And for the Jews, they didn't eat catfish. Apparently, it was seen as an unclean food. But the other type of fish that was caught in the Sea of Galilee was tilapia. Tilapia, which is nicknamed, it's actually nicknamed, St. Peter's fish.

All the locals, that's what they called that kind of fish. St. Peter's fish. But regardless of what fish the disciples had caught and what fish Jesus had cooked, the important thing was the disciples were having breakfast with Jesus, which, as we were saying to the children, is something we should all do every day.

We should all have breakfast with Jesus. We should all be fed by Jesus. We should all begin our day with Jesus. And of course, we do that not by eating fish, but by focusing upon Jesus, by taking the time to thank Him for a new day, assured of the promise that His mercies are new each and every morning, but also to read His Word, where He promises to speak to you in His Word, to guide you in His Word, to direct you for the day ahead.

[19:19] My friend, do you begin your day with Jesus? Do you begin your day with Jesus? Did you begin today with Jesus?

Did you have breakfast with Jesus this morning? Did you have breakfast with Jesus this morning? Sadly, you know, in our fast-paced culture that's always rushing and running around, many people,

they not only skip breakfast altogether, but they also skip breakfast with Jesus.

And of course, it doesn't make you a better Christian if you have breakfast with Jesus or not. God doesn't love you more if you have breakfast with Jesus or not. But you know, if breakfast is the most important meal of the day because it satisfies you and sets you up for the day ahead, then breakfast with Jesus by reading His Word and praying and committing your day to the Lord, surely that's the best way to start your day and set you up for the day ahead.

Breakfast with Jesus is the best way to start your day and set you up for the day ahead. And as you know, there are many daily readings that are out there on the market.

There's Warren Weerspey, I'd encourage you, Warren Weerspey, or J.C. Weil, but Warren Weerspey, prayer, praise, and promises. Brilliant daily reading. Best way to start your day and set you up for the day ahead.

[20 : 45] And I, you know, I know it can be hard. It can be hard to find time with all the pressures, all the priorities of family, getting kids ready in the morning, the priorities and pressures of work.

But you know, try. Try and make sure that you begin your day with Jesus. Don't skip breakfast with Jesus. Take time. Make time every morning to have breakfast with Jesus so that you start your day with Jesus and you're set up for the day ahead.

But you know, this morning miracle, it wasn't, as we read, it wasn't a little miracle. It was a large miracle. John tells us that the haul of fish wasn't a net full of little fish.

It was a net full of large fish. And it wasn't just a little amount of fish, but a large amount of fish. In fact, John tells us exactly how many fish were hauled ashore.

He writes that there were 153 fish and the net was not torn. Verse 11, there were 153 of them and the net was not torn.

[21 : 53] Now, there have been many weird and many wonderful suggestions as to why John tells us the exact number of fish in the net to the point that if you ever looked it up, why was there 153 fish in the net?

Some believe that they've worked out how many people in the whole world will be saved. Others have worked out from 153 fish when the world is going to end.

But of course, there's nothing to do with that. Nothing to do with any of that. John is simply as a gospel writer, as someone who's presenting the truth, John is emphasizing and evidencing that this morning meal was a big deal for the disciples.

This morning meal was a big deal for the disciples and it was a big deal for the disciples because despite feeling flat and floored and forgotten and forsaken and feeling like absolute failures, despite how they felt in and of themselves, when the disciples began their day with Jesus, when they had breakfast with Jesus, when they focused their minds and their hearts on Jesus, their net was full and their faith was full.

it all focused them towards Jesus. Everything that happened, everything that was happening, the morning miracle and the morning meal was to focus them on Jesus.

[23 : 19] And is that not what the Bible is always doing for us? Bringing our focus back to Jesus because it often drifts. It often goes this way and that way but the whole purpose is to bring us back to Jesus.

And you know, when they were focused on Jesus, their faith was full. Jesus brought them then, as we see lastly, the morning message.

So as the disciples have breakfast with Jesus, they see the morning miracle, then they have a morning meal and now there's the morning message. The morning message.

Look at verse 15. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?

He said to him, yes, Lord, you know that I love you. He said to him, feed my lambs. He said to him a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? He said to him, yes, Lord, you know that I love you.

[24 : 20] He said to him, tend my sheep. He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he had said to him the third time, do you love me? And he said to him, Lord, you know everything.

You know that I love you. Jesus said to him, feed my sheep. You know what a morning the disciples had.

It must have been a great morning. To begin your day feeling flat and floored and forgotten and forsaken and thinking that you're an absolute failure and then to have breakfast with Jesus where you are satisfied and set up for the day ahead.

And as the disciples are going out into their day ahead, Jesus pulls Peter aside and he asks him one of the most personal, one of the most probing questions in the gospel.

Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me more than these? These nets, these fishing boats. Do you love me? But you know, as we read, Jesus didn't ask Peter this question once or even twice, but three times.

[25 : 34] Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me? And we might wonder, well, why did Jesus focus on Peter? Of course, all the other disciples. Like all the other disciples, Jesus knew that Peter was feeling flat and floored and forgotten and forsaken and a failure in his faith, especially because just a few days earlier, you remember how Peter had denied ever knowing or loving Jesus.

You remember when Jesus was put on trial or even before Jesus was put on trial, Jesus had prophesied to Peter that he would deny him three times before morning and Peter did.

While he warmed himself with the world at the fire, Peter publicly denied ever knowing Jesus and any knowledge of Jesus and he denied him three times.

I do not know the man. I do not know the man. I do not know this man. And now here he is a few days later having breakfast with Jesus.

He's been satisfied by Jesus. He's been set up for the day ahead by Jesus. He's had this provision made by Jesus and then Jesus three times asks Peter that probing question.

[26 : 53] Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me? Now Peter had learned as a child, like all of us have learned as children, that the greatest commandment is love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.

But you know, this was personal. This was pointed. This was probing. He was probing Peter because Jesus wasn't just speaking to Peter's head.

No, no. Jesus was speaking to Peter's heart. Jesus wants to speak to our heart. And Peter knew that. Peter knew what he had done.

Peter knew that he had denied Jesus, saying he did not know the man. Peter knew that he had deserted Jesus. He knew that Jesus had every right to forsake him and forget about him after what he had done.

And yet, Jesus lovingly says to Peter, do you love me? And every time Jesus asked Peter, do you love me?

[28 : 02] Peter responds with this reply. He says, yes, Lord. you know that I love you. You know that I love you. Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.

He found it hard to be a Christian witness. But in his heart, he could say, yes, Lord, I know. You know that I love you. And my friend, Jesus is asking you the same question this morning.

He's asking you this very same question. But notice, and please notice, what he's not asking you.

He's not asking you, are you a good person? He's not asking you, do you keep the commandments? He's not asking you, have you read your Bible this morning? He's not asking you, do you give to the church?

Do you give enough to the church? He's not asking you, do you attend church regularly? Jesus isn't even asking you here, are you a Christian? Because many people can say that they're a Christian and yet live nothing like a Christian, which is why Jesus is asking you this morning the very personal and probing question, do you love me?

[29 : 12] Do you love me? Do you love me? And as you know, love is not just an emotion or a feeling.

Love is an action. Love is a response. Love is evidenced by commitment. And you know, you look at this Jesus who's presented to us in the gospel, even in John's gospel, he presents to us Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

And when you look at John's gospel, you see that there's no doubt that Jesus loves you because he has displayed and demonstrated his love towards you and that whilst you were yet a sinner, he died for you.

There's no doubt that this Jesus loves you, that he loves sinners. There's no doubt that this Jesus is committed to you. But this morning he's asking you the question, do you love me?

Do you love me? And I'm sure that many of us here or even at home today would answer Jesus' question.

[30 : 24] We would say what Peter says. Yes, Lord, you know that I love you. I might not have told anybody else, but you know that I love you. You know that I love you, but but I don't think I'm good enough.

Lord, you know that I love you, but I don't know enough. Lord, you know that I love you, but I don't think I'm worthy enough to follow you. Some of you might even be saying, Lord, you know that I love you, but not today.

Not today. Another time in my life, not today. My friend, if you truly love Jesus, you'll not only respond with Peter saying, yes, Lord, you know that I love you.

You'll respond by saying, Lord, Lord, I want to show you that I love you by committing my life to you.

Lord, I want to show you that I love you by committing my life to you.

What a great question he's asking you this morning. Do you love me? Yes, Lord, you know that I love you. Sadly, after having breakfast with Jesus, and with this I'll conclude, time has gone.

[31 : 44] You know, Peter, Peter's love for Jesus then became distracted. His attention was diverted towards someone else, towards John, the disciple whom Jesus loved.

When Peter asks about John, he asks the question, what about him? What about John? And Jesus, he responds firmly to Peter.

He's very direct with him. He says, what is that to you? You follow me. And it's such an important lesson to learn, isn't it? Because our wholehearted love and commitment to Jesus can often be distracted by other things or diverted towards other people.

When we look at other people and we think to ourselves, well, what about him? What about her? What about them? And we can try and excuse ourselves from wholeheartedly loving and following Jesus where we point at other people, other Christians, and they might not be living the way we think they should be living and we say, well, look at them.

Look at what they do. Look at what they say. Look at how they act. I'm not like them. I don't do that. But Jesus says to us, just like he said to Peter, what is that to you? You follow me.

[32 : 59] You follow me. Never mind anyone else. You are not responsible for them. You're not accountable to them or for them.

You're accountable for yourself. What is that to you? You follow me. You follow me.

Which brings us back to Jesus' personal and very probing question. Do you love me? Do you love me?

My friend, you need to have breakfast with Jesus if you haven't had breakfast with him yet. You need to begin your day with Jesus. To begin your day by committing and confessing to Jesus, Lord, you know all things.

You know. You know that I love you. And may the Lord bless these thoughts to us. Let us pray. O Lord, our gracious God, we give thanks this morning that Jesus speaks to us in the gospel and that he speaks to us so lovingly, so graciously, and that he comes alongside us and that whatever we are going through, however we feel, he asks us the simple question, do you love me?

[34 : 27] And that we would all be able to say, yes, Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you. Help us, we pray, to live lives committed to this Jesus who is certainly committed to us, who loves us and gave himself for us.

Help us, Lord, we pray, to walk every day and to hear Jesus saying to us, what is that to you? You follow me. Help us, Lord, to follow him with all our heart, our mind, our soul, and our strength.

Lord, do us good, we pray. Bless thy word to us, we ask, and go before us for Jesus' sake. Amen. We're going to bring our service to a conclusion this morning.

we're going to sing the words of Psalm 116. Psalm 116 is in the Scottish Psalter, page 395. Page 395 in the blue psalm book.

We're singing from the beginning down to the verse marked 6. And, as you'll see and as you'll know from Psalm 116, it is in many ways the confession of someone who loves Jesus.

[35 : 45] He loves the Lord. So, if this is not your psalm, make it your psalm. Because, as Jesus asks you, do you love me?

You can say, I love the Lord because my voice and prayers heeded here. I, while I live, will call on him who bowed to me his ear. So, we'll sing down to the verse marked 6 of Psalm 116.

And, we'll stand to sing if you're able to God's praise. I love the Lord because my voice and prayers he did hear.

I, while I live, will call on him who bowed to me his ear.

of death, of death, the courts and sorrows did above me compass round.

[37 : 03] The pains of hell took hold on me. upon the name of God the Lord then did I call and say deliver deliver thou my soul O Lord I do thee humbly pray God merciful and righteousness yea gracious is our

Lord God saves the meek I was brought low he did me help afford the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all now and forevermore.

Amen.