

A sunset scene with a large, bright sun partially obscured by a dark, semi-transparent horizontal band. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. Below the band, the silhouettes of trees and a mountain range are visible against the sunset sky.

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

Acts 2:14, 36-37, 41

“From Disheartened to Emboldened”

Acts 2:14 But **Peter**, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and **hearken to my words**: ...

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that **God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.**

37 Now when they heard *this*, **they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter** and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? ...

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

Review

By God's grace we will renew our strength, rebuild our steadfastness, and rekindle our spirit. That is our theme for 2021...

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

Introduction

This morning, we begin with the account of the Apostle Peter preaching a fiery sermon on the Day of Pentecost. However, a few days before, the Scriptures give a different perspective of him.

Jn. 21:3 Simon Peter saith unto them, **I go a fishing.** They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and **that night they caught nothing.**

How did the Apostle Peter go from fishing to fiery preacher? What if the Lord set up a special incident for Peter's benefit? Let's consider a special encounter that the Lord set up for Peter before the day of Pentecost.

I. THE RETURN TO NORMALCY

Jn. 21:1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at **the sea of Tiberias**; and on this wise shewed he *himself*.

2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the *sons* of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, **I go a fishing**. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

14 **This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.**

- After the resurrection the Lord met several times with His disciples. (See Acts 1:3)
- The first two appearances were in Jerusalem. The third appearance is at the Sea of Galilee, anywhere from 60-115 miles away, where the Lord said He would meet with them.



Israel
in
New Testament
Times
1st Century A.D.

Introduction

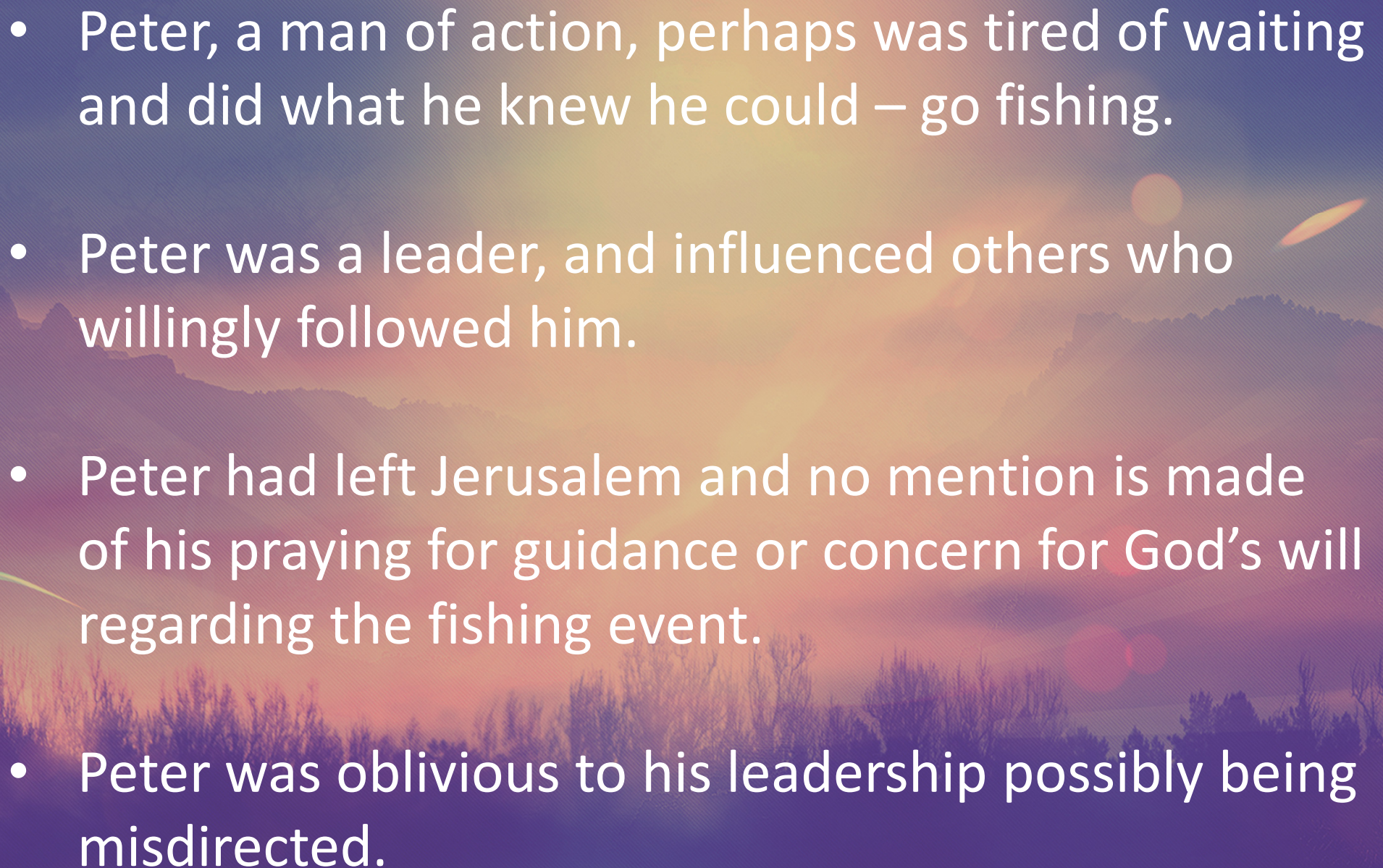


Political Boundaries
Cities Mentioned in N.T.
Cities Jesus Visited
Cities of the Decapolis
Fortresses

Mountains
Rivers
Lakes and Seas
Valleys and Plains
Physical Features

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- Peter, a man of action, perhaps was tired of waiting and did what he knew he could – go fishing.
 - Peter was a leader, and influenced others who willingly followed him.
 - Peter had left Jerusalem and no mention is made of his praying for guidance or concern for God's will regarding the fishing event.
 - Peter was oblivious to his leadership possibly being misdirected.

II. THE RESULTS OF NOTHING – “...and that night they caught nothing.”

- How often is futility the result of self-confidence, instead of receiving God’s blessing in regard to our submissiveness to the Lord.

Jn. 21:4 But when the morning was now come, **Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.**

5 Then Jesus saith unto them, **Children, have ye any meat?** They answered him, No.

6 And he said unto them, **Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.** They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

- The professional fisherman caught nothing.
- The disciples knew that Jesus was to meet them in Galilee, but no one connected the dots that He was on the shore – “...but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.”
- After following the directions of Jesus, the disciples obeyed and had great success. – “...They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.”
- The Apostle John realized that Jesus was there – “...Peter, It is the Lord...”

III. THE REALITY NOTICED

Jn. 21:7 Therefore **that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord.** Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt *his* fisher's coat *unto him*, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

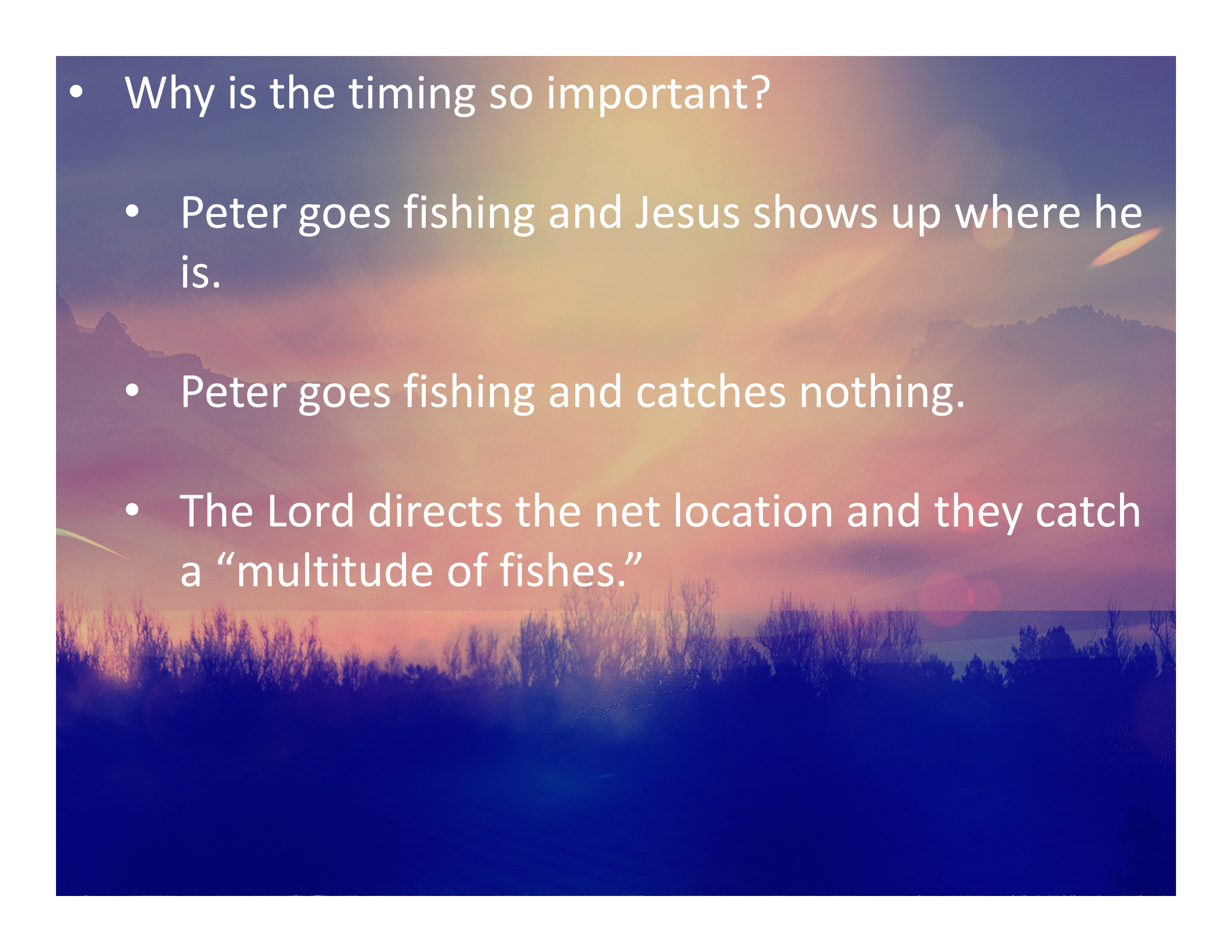
10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

11 **Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.**

12 **Jesus saith unto them, Come *and* dine.** And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

14 This is now **the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.**

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- Why is the timing so important?
 - Peter goes fishing and Jesus shows up where he is.
 - Peter goes fishing and catches nothing.
 - The Lord directs the net location and they catch a “multitude of fishes.”

Jn. 21:11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land **full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three**: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

- Jesus had everything prepared in order to have fellowship – breakfast on the shore.
- The setting is most conducive for fellowship – fire, food, and friends.

- Then Jesus reveals His motive for the entire incident:
He only speaks to Peter:

Jn. 21:15 **So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter**, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs

- The omniscient Lord already knew the answer – He was challenging Peter to review his priorities – do you love the Lord or the successful harvest of fish?
- Peter’s response was accurate – “...Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee...”
- Peter denied the Lord three times and now replies three times of his love for the Savior.

Rev. 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee,
because thou hast left thy first love.

5 **Remember** therefore from whence thou art fallen,
and repent, and **do the first works**; or else I will come
unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out
of his place, **except thou repent.**

- The whole fishing incident in Jn. 21:1-14 is to set up the reality of priorities for Peter in the remainder of the chapter. This is to prepare Peter for the Day of Pentecost.
- Love is the priority that precedes service – “...lovest thou me...Feed my lambs...sheep...”

- The “third” encounter with the resurrected Savior provided opportunity for fellowship and direction for the future, **after a lesson on the quality of love and its connection with doing God’s will.**
- The chapter concludes with improper questioning to Jesus by Peter, and Jesus emphasizing personal accountability:

Jn. 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, **Lord, and what shall this man do?**

22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, **what is that to thee? follow thou me.**

- Before Peter engaged the Jews on the Day of Pentecost, the Lord set the stage on the sea shore – repent and return to your first love.

Mt. 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, **the love of many shall wax cold.**

- All believers are susceptible to growing cold in fellowship with the Lord.
- The Lord has the fire going and invites us to “come and dine.” When we repent and return to Him, our spiritual fires will be rekindled as we have renewed fellowship with Him.

Jas. 4:8 **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.**

Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and **purify your hearts**, *your* double minded.

Conclusion

Jn. 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, **Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.** He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.**

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, **Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.** He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, **lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, **Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.** Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with vibrant colors, transitioning from deep blue at the top to bright yellow and orange near the horizon. Silhouettes of mountains and trees are visible against the colorful sky. The overall mood is peaceful and inspirational.

1 Jn. 4:19 **We love him**, because **he first loved us.**