

Books of the Book Series

The Gospel of John Outline of Script for TV Production 3ABN Studios March 4-12, 2013

27. Appendix: Gone Fishing (John 21:1-25)

27. Scene A. The Structure and Setting

John 21 often called an Epilogue

20:30-31 reads like a conclusion to the Gospel

21 reads like an afterthought

Sets context of rumor for writing of Gospel

Three options for a believing reading of the Gospel

21 an awkward ending to the original

21 added in a second edition toward end of author's life

21 added from his memoirs after author's death

Structure of John 21

21:1-6– Fishing expedition

21:7-14– Breakfasts by the beach

21:15-19– Jesus and Peter

21:20-23– Peter and John

21:24-25– Conclusion of the Gospel

Post-resurrection appearances

Occasional and unexpected

All are startled when Jesus appears

Jesus ministry complete before the cross

He says little after the resurrection

Appearances simply validate the genuineness of the resurrection

27. Scene B. The Fishing Story and Encounter with Jesus (John 21:1-14)

John 21:1-3–

Seven disciples go out fishing

Include Peter and sons of Zebedee

And the disciple Jesus loved

Not clear if he is a Zebedee

Sea of Tiberius = Sea of Galilee

Why fishing at night?

Two types of fishing

- Lure fishing (daylight)
- Net fishing (night)
- John 21:4-6– Jesus' strange instructions
- Second Adam theme
- Dominion over the fish of the sea (Gen 1:26-28)
- John 21:7-8–
- Again John is quick to figure it out (cf. 20:8)
- This time Peter listens to him and acts on it
- John 21:9-11–
- Jesus has been fishing Himself!
- Made breakfast
- Why 153 mentioned?
- “Children of God” in Aramaic (cf. John 1:12)
- John 21:12-13–
- Silent breakfast
- Disciples confused
- Shared same uncertainties as second generation
- Jesus' physical presence no help
- Spirit provides solid assurance
- Jesus took the bread and gave it to them
- Lord's Supper language
- No Lord's Supper in John
- But language appears with picnic lunches (cf. 6:11)

27. Scene C. Jesus and Peter (John 21:15-19)

- Jesus and Peter go for a walk on the beach (see 21:20)
- Three denials, three questionings

John 21:15–

- First questioning Jesus adds: “More than *these*?”
- Greek not clear, masculine or neuter
- Masculine: refers to other disciples
- Neuter: refers to boat and fishing gear
- If referring to disciples
- Danger of spiritual comparison
- Claimed more loyal than others (Matt 26:33)
- No response to this = confession
- If referring to fishing gear
- Questions commitment to the mission

John 21:15-17–

- Many scholars see two words for love as significant
- Four loves in Greek
- Agape* = self-sacrificing love
- Phileo* = family love, friendship

Eros = sexual, erotic love
Storge = affection (animals?)
NT uses only first two
Jesus lowers the bar for Peter
Reality: two words are used synonymously elsewhere in John
Triple repetition probes Peter to the depths
Chips away pride and assertiveness
No pain, no gain
Jesus doesn't settle for the superficial
EW implies this happened in front of disciples
To regain their confidence in Peter
Peter would follow faithfully to death (18-19)
Follow = take Jesus' role and place on earth

27. Scene D. Peter and John (John 21:20-23)

John 21:20-21—

Disease of comparison
The church is to have many leaders, not just one
Multitude of counselors
Four gospels, not just one
No one picture of Jesus is an absolute all must follow
God loves variety

John 21:22-23—

The perils of date-setting
Death of John would devastate the church
All because of a rumor
Jesus' point: John's future is none of your concern
John's point: The Word will take care of you when I'm gone
Our point: Expect to be misunderstood
The struggle to communicate

27. Scene E. Major Themes

Story of John 21 an acted parable of the church
Disciples = first generation
Their writings would produce the second generation
Fish = second generation
Would come to Jesus through the writings
153 fish = "children of God"
Quantity and size = successful ministry
Jesus directed the conversion of the second generation
We don't convert anyone, it is a miracle whenever it happens
Unbroken net = unity of the church
Breakfast = some second gen get direct call from Jesus

Heathen, Muslims?

Following Jesus

Peter the only disciple commanded: "Follow me!" (19, 22)

His death was like Jesus' death

He was to give his life for others

So we give our lives for others

Undershepherds to the Good Shepherd

27. Scene F. The Conclusion of the Gospel ([John 21:24-25](#))

Validation of John's testimony

The incomparable riches of Christ

No end to the making of gospels

The one that matters most is the one Jesus will write on your heart

Your gospel is the testimony of what His Words have done in your life

Our account of John's Gospel is coming to an end

The story of Jesus' impact on your life is only beginning