

Bible Study on “The Resurrection Appearances of Jesus”

1. **1 Corinthians 15:3-8** was written 53-55 AD.
2. **Mary Magdalene** (John 20:14-17; Matthew 28:9-10; Mark 16:9)
3. **The other Mary** (Matthew 28:9-10)
4. **Peter** (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
5. **Cleopas and another disciple** on the road to Emmaus Sunday afternoon (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12)
6. **Disciples (without Thomas)** in Jerusalem Sunday evening (Luke 24:36-43; Acts 1:4; John 20:19-23; Mark 16:14; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
7. **Thomas and the other disciples**, a week later (John 20:24-29)
8. **Disciples** in Galilee (Matthew 28:17)
9. **Disciples (Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and two others)** while fishing on the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-23)
10. **500** at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6)
11. **James, Jesus’ brother**, who later became the leader of the Jerusalem congregation (1 Corinthians 15:7) P14 P
12. **Disciples** at the ascension (Matthew 28:51-52)
13. **Paul** (1 Corinthians 15:8), much later

APRIL 2024							MAY 2024						
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"Revelations of the Risen Lord By The Sea: Understanding Matthew 28:16-20 and John 21:1-23."

Introduction

Welcome to our Bible study, titled "Revelations of the Risen Lord By The Sea: Understanding Matthew 28:16-20 and John 21:1-23." In this study, we embark on a journey to explore two profound encounters with the risen Lord Jesus Christ, as recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and John. These passages offer us profound insights into the transformative power of Christ's resurrection and the ongoing mission entrusted to his followers.

Our study begins with Matthew 28:16-20, where we witness the disciples' encounter with the risen Christ on a mountain in Galilee. As they gather in obedience to Jesus' command, they are met with a revelation of his authority over heaven and earth. Through his commission to make disciples of all nations, we discover the universal scope of the Gospel message and our call to participate in God's redemptive plan.

Turning our attention to John 21:1-23, we find another remarkable encounter with Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Through the miraculous catch of fish and his restoration of Peter, we witness the intimate love and provision of the risen Lord. As Jesus commissions Peter to shepherd his flock, we are challenged to examine our own commitment to discipleship and service in the kingdom of God.

We will delve into these passages verse by verse, unpacking their significance, exploring the historical context in which they were written, and discerning the timeless truths and messages they convey. May our hearts be opened, our minds enlightened, and our faith deepened as we encounter the revelations of the risen Lord by the sea.

I. Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”^[a]

While both passages occur after Jesus' resurrection and involve interactions between Jesus and his disciples, they describe different events. In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus commissions his disciples to make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In John 21:1-23, Jesus appears to his disciples by the Sea of Galilee, performs a miracle, shares a meal with them, and commissions Peter to shepherd his flock. While there are similarities in the themes of commissioning and discipleship, the contexts and specific events differ between the two passages.

II. Context:

Matthew 28:16-20, commonly known as the Great Commission, occurs immediately after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The disciples have received word of Jesus' resurrection from the women at the tomb, and Jesus himself appears to them in Galilee. This passage marks the culmination of Jesus' earthly ministry and serves as a commissioning for his disciples to continue his work of making disciples of all nations.

III. Critical Questions

1. Verse 16: "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go."

- Why did Jesus instruct the disciples to meet him in Galilee?

- What significance might this location have held for the disciples?

Verse 16: Jesus instructed the disciples to meet him in Galilee because it was a familiar and significant location for them. Galilee was where much of Jesus' ministry had taken place, and it held symbolic meaning as the place where Jesus first called his disciples. Meeting them there may have served to strengthen their faith and remind them of their call to follow him.

Are their places, or PEOPLE, that strengthen your faith? Why?

Familiar places can strengthen our faith in several ways:

1. Sense of Comfort and Security: Familiar places often evoke feelings of comfort, safety, and security. When we engage in spiritual practices or experiences in familiar settings such as our homes, places of worship, or natural surroundings, we are more likely to feel at ease and open to encountering God's presence.

2. Association with Past Experiences: Familiar places may be associated with significant past experiences of faith, worship, or spiritual encounters. Returning to these places can evoke memories of God's faithfulness, answered prayers, and moments of spiritual breakthrough, reinforcing our belief in God's presence and provision.

3. Connection to Community: Familiar places often serve as gathering spaces for communities of faith. When we worship, pray, or engage in spiritual activities alongside others in familiar settings, we experience a sense of belonging and connection to the larger faith community. This sense of community strengthens our faith as we share in each other's journeys and support one another in our spiritual growth.

4. Opportunity for Reflection and Contemplation: Familiar places provide opportunities for quiet reflection, contemplation, and spiritual practice. Whether it's a familiar room in our home, a favorite spot in nature, or a sacred space within a place of worship, these settings allow us to disconnect from the distractions of the world and focus our hearts and minds on God. In these moments of solitude and stillness, we can deepen our relationship with God and gain clarity and perspective on our faith journey.

5. Continuity and Routine: Familiar places provide a sense of continuity and routine in our spiritual lives. Engaging in regular spiritual practices or rituals in familiar settings helps to establish a rhythm of faith that sustains us through life's ups and downs. This consistency reinforces our faith and helps us navigate challenges with a sense of stability and assurance.

Overall, familiar places play a significant role in strengthening our faith by providing a sense of comfort, connection, and continuity in our spiritual journey. They serve as sacred spaces where we can encounter God's presence, reflect on our relationship with Him, and deepen our commitment to living out our faith in daily life.

2. Verse 17: "When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted."

- Worship: Do you ever worship in doubt?

- Why do you think some of the disciples doubted even after seeing Jesus resurrected?

- How does this verse reflect the complexity of faith and belief?

Verse 17: Some of the disciples doubted even after seeing Jesus resurrected possibly due to the overwhelming nature of the experience, the unexpectedness of the resurrection, or lingering doubts and uncertainties. Their doubt underscores the human struggle to fully comprehend and accept miraculous events, even when presented with evidence.

Have you ever seen or witnessed a miracle? Believed it? Have shared it? Why or why not?

3. Verse 18: "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'"

Authority -

- What does it mean for Jesus to have all authority in heaven and on earth?

- How does this statement relate to Jesus' identity as the Son of God and the Messiah?

Verse 18: Jesus having all authority in heaven and on earth means that he possesses ultimate power and sovereignty over all creation. This authority empowers his disciples to carry out his mission with confidence, knowing that they are acting under his divine authority and guidance.

How does this authority impact our understanding of discipleship?

The authority of Christ should be exercised in our lives in the following ways:

1. Submission to His Word: We should submit to the authority of Christ as revealed in Scripture. This means aligning our beliefs, values, and actions with the teachings of Jesus and allowing His Word to guide our thoughts, decisions, and behavior.

2. Surrendering to His Lordship: Acknowledging Jesus as Lord means surrendering control of our lives to Him completely. This involves relinquishing our own desires, ambitions, and agendas in favor of seeking and obeying God's will in all things.

3. Following His Example: Jesus demonstrated servant leadership throughout His earthly ministry, prioritizing love, compassion, and humility in His interactions with others. We should follow His example by serving others selflessly, showing kindness and grace, and putting the needs of others before our own.

4. Seeking His Guidance in Prayer: We should regularly seek guidance and direction from Christ through prayer. By spending time in prayerful communion with Him, we invite His wisdom, discernment, and guidance into our lives, allowing Him to direct our paths and lead us in His ways.

5. Trusting His Promises: The authority of Christ is grounded in His faithfulness and trustworthiness. We should trust in His promises, believing that He is always with us, that He will never leave us nor forsake us, and that He is working all things together for our good.

6. Living in His Power: The authority of Christ empowers us to live victorious lives as His disciples. Through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to overcome sin, temptation, and adversity, and to live in the fullness of His grace and strength.

7. Proclaiming His Gospel: As bearers of Christ's authority, we are called to proclaim the Gospel message to the world. This involves sharing the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, inviting others to enter into relationship with Him, and making disciples who will follow Him faithfully.

In summary, the authority of Christ should be exercised in our lives through submission to His Word, surrender to His lordship, following His example of servant leadership, seeking His guidance in prayer, trusting in His promises, living in His power, and proclaiming His Gospel to the world. By living under His authority, we experience the abundant life He offers and bear witness to His transformative power in our lives and in the world.

4. Verse 19: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"**

- What is the significance of the command to make disciples of all nations?

- How does baptism reflect the believer's commitment to the Triune God?

Verse 19: Jesus' commission to make disciples of all nations signifies the universal scope of the Gospel message. It emphasizes the disciples' responsibility to spread the Good News to people of all nations, cultures, and backgrounds. Baptism reflects the believer's commitment to the Triune God by symbolizing their identification with Christ's death and resurrection and their incorporation into the community of believers.

5. Verse 20: "and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

- What is the importance of teaching disciples to obey Jesus' commands?

Discipleship in Christ refers to the process of following Jesus, learning from Him, and becoming more like Him in every aspect of life. It involves a lifelong journey of growth, transformation, and obedience to the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. Here are some key aspects of discipleship in Christ:

1. Following Jesus: At its core, discipleship means following Jesus as Lord and Savior. It involves committing to a personal relationship with Him and making Him the central focus of our lives.

2. Learning from Jesus: Discipleship involves studying and internalizing the teachings of Jesus as found in the Bible. This includes learning about His life, His ministry, His teachings, and His character, and applying them to our own lives.

3. Imitating Jesus: Discipleship calls us to emulate the example of Jesus in our attitudes, actions, and relationships. This includes demonstrating love, compassion, humility, forgiveness, and servanthood in our interactions with others.

4. Growing in Faith: Discipleship is a journey of spiritual growth and maturity. It involves deepening our faith in God, trusting in His promises, and relying on His strength to overcome challenges and obstacles.

5. Serving Others: Discipleship involves serving others selflessly, just as Jesus did. This includes meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those around us and actively participating in God's mission of reconciliation and redemption in the world.

6. Making Disciples: As disciples of Jesus, we are called to make disciples of others. This involves sharing the Gospel message, mentoring and discipling new believers, and helping them grow in their relationship with Christ.

7. Counting the Cost: Discipleship requires sacrifice and commitment. Jesus calls His followers to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Him wholeheartedly, even when it means facing opposition, persecution, or hardship.

In summary, discipleship in Christ is about wholeheartedly committing to following Jesus, learning from Him, growing in faith, serving others, and making disciples. It is a lifelong journey of transformation and obedience that leads to a deeper relationship with God and a life lived in alignment with His purposes and values.

- How does Jesus' promise to be with his disciples always provide comfort and assurance?

Presence

In what ways do you feel or sense the Presence of the Lord? When or where?

How does this assurance impact our obedience to his commands?

Verse 20: Jesus' promise to be with his disciples always provides comfort and assurance by assuring them of his continual presence and support. This assurance empowers believers to boldly carry out Jesus' commands and mission, knowing that they are never alone in their efforts to follow him and make disciples.

IV. Message

The Great Commission encapsulates the core mission of the Christian faith: to proclaim the gospel message, make disciples, baptize believers, and teach obedience to Christ's commands. Jesus commissions his followers to carry out this mission with the assurance of his authority and presence. The command to make disciples of all nations emphasizes the universality of the gospel message and the inclusivity of God's kingdom. The promise of Jesus' continual presence with his disciples underscores the importance of relying on his strength and guidance in fulfilling the Great Commission.

V. Application

1. Reflect on your own doubts and uncertainties in following Jesus. How can you surrender them to him and grow in faith?
2. Consider how you can actively participate in fulfilling the Great Commission in your local community and beyond.

3. Evaluate your commitment to making disciples and teaching obedience to Christ's commands. How can you be more intentional in these areas?
4. Take comfort in the promise of Jesus' continual presence with you as you seek to fulfill his mission in the world.

John 21:1-23

21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way.

2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin,^[a] Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am 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.

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

5 Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No."

6 He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea.

8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."

¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord.

¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish.

¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus and Peter

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." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he 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."

¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."

¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Jesus and the Beloved Disciple

²⁰ Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"

²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about him?”

²² Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!”

²³ So the rumor spread among the brothers and sisters that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”^[b]

VI. Context:

John 21:1-23 recounts an event that occurs after Jesus' resurrection. It takes place in Galilee, where Jesus appears to his disciples for the third time after his resurrection. The disciples, still grappling with the reality of Jesus' resurrection, are fishing when Jesus appears to them on the shore. This passage serves as a significant interaction between Jesus and his disciples, particularly Peter, and concludes with Jesus commissioning Peter to feed and tend his sheep.

VII. Critical Questions:

1. Verse 1-3: "Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee... Simon Peter said, 'I'm going out to fish.' ... 'We'll go with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

- What might their lack of success in catching fish symbolize or represent?

- Why do you think Jesus appeared to his disciples by the Sea of Galilee? What might this setting symbolize?

Verse 1: Jesus appeared to his disciples by the Sea of Galilee possibly to evoke memories of their initial encounter with him as fishermen and to signify the continuation of their journey with him as disciples.

The setting symbolizes the disciples' ongoing call to follow Jesus and participate in his mission.

Verse 3

- Why do you think Peter and the disciples went fishing after Jesus' resurrection?

What might their lack of success represent?

Verse 3: Peter and the disciples decided to go fishing possibly out of a sense of familiarity and comfort, or as a way to pass the time while waiting for further instructions from Jesus. Their lack of success may represent their need to rely on Jesus for provision and guidance rather than their own efforts.

Are their familiar places where you could go fishing for disciples? Have you gone? Why? Why not? Successful or not? Where?

2. Verse 4-6: "Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus... He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish."

- Why do you think the disciples did not recognize Jesus at first?

- What significance might there be in the miraculous catch of fish?

How does this miracle relate to his earlier interactions with the disciples?

A miracle is an extraordinary event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore attributed to a divine agency. Miracles are often viewed as acts of divine intervention or supernatural occurrences that defy the ordinary course of nature.

The difficulty in believing in miracles stems from several factors:

1. Rationality and Science: In a world driven by scientific understanding and rational inquiry, the concept of miracles can be challenging to accept. Many people rely on empirical evidence and logical reasoning to interpret events, and miracles often defy these naturalistic explanations.

2. Worldview and Belief Systems: Belief in miracles often depends on one's worldview and religious or spiritual beliefs. Skeptics may struggle to

accept miracles due to their adherence to atheistic or materialistic worldviews, which reject the existence of supernatural phenomena.

3. Personal Experience and Perception: Some individuals may have never personally experienced or witnessed a miracle, making it difficult for them to believe in their occurrence. Miracles are often subjective experiences, and personal perception plays a significant role in determining their credibility.

4. Skepticism and Doubt: Healthy skepticism and critical thinking are essential components of intellectual inquiry. However, excessive skepticism or doubt can lead individuals to dismiss or rationalize away miraculous events, even in the face of compelling evidence.

5. Cultural and Societal Influence: Cultural norms, societal attitudes, and religious traditions can shape individuals' beliefs about miracles. In some cultures or societies, skepticism towards miracles may be more prevalent, while in others, belief in miracles may be deeply ingrained.

Despite these challenges, many people continue to believe in miracles based on their religious faith, personal experiences, and encounters with the divine. Ultimately, the belief in miracles is a deeply personal and subjective matter, influenced by a complex interplay of factors including worldview, experience, and interpretation of evidence.

Verse 6: The significance of Jesus performing a miracle with the abundance of fish demonstrates his power over creation and his ability to provide for his disciples' needs.

Sometimes, we need to be reminded of who Jesus is **And** what Jesus can do. This miracle recalls earlier instances of miraculous catches of fish, reinforcing the disciples' recognition of Jesus' identity as the Messiah and their dependence on him for sustenance.

Belief in miracles is a fundamental aspect of Christian faith for many believers. The Bible contains numerous accounts of miraculous events, including Jesus' healing of the sick, raising the dead, and his own resurrection. These miracles are central to Christian theology and are seen as demonstrations of God's power, compassion, and presence in the world.

Here are a few reasons why many Christians believe in miracles:

1. Biblical Teaching: The Bible describes miracles as signs of God's presence and intervention in the world. Christians often point to passages throughout the Old and New Testaments that recount miraculous events as evidence of God's power and sovereignty.

2. Jesus' Ministry: Jesus' own ministry was characterized by miraculous deeds, including healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and calming storms. These miracles served as signs of the Kingdom of God and affirmed Jesus' identity as the Son of God.

3. Personal Experience: Many Christians have personally experienced or witnessed what they believe to be miraculous events in their lives or the lives of others. These experiences often strengthen their faith and conviction in the reality of divine intervention.

4. Historical Evidence: Some Christians point to historical evidence, such as accounts of miracles recorded by early church fathers or documented miraculous healings in modern times, as support for the existence of miracles.

5. Faith Tradition: Belief in miracles is deeply rooted in Christian tradition and theology. Throughout history, Christians have affirmed the reality of miracles as a core aspect of their faith.

While belief in miracles is central to many Christian traditions, ultimately, the belief in miracles is a matter of personal faith and interpretation of scripture.

3. Verse 7-14: "Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' ... When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread... Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' ... Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish."**

- What is the significance of Jesus preparing breakfast for the disciples?

- How does this meal mirror or parallel previous interactions between Jesus and his disciples?

4. Verse 15-17: "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' ... Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.'"

Commissioning

"Commission" and "commissioning" have several related meanings, but in the context of Christianity, they often refer to the act of entrusting someone with a specific task, role, or responsibility in service to God's kingdom. Here's a breakdown of each term:

1. **Commission:**

As a noun, "commission" refers to the authority or instruction given to someone to carry out a particular task or mission. It can also refer to the act of granting such authority or instruction.

For example, when Jesus commissions His disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), He is entrusting them with the responsibility and authority to spread the Gospel message and make new disciples.

2. **Commissioning**

- "Commissioning" is the act of formally assigning or authorizing someone to fulfill a specific role or task. It often involves a ceremony or ritual in which the individual is set apart and empowered for their appointed mission.

- In Christian contexts, commissioning may involve prayer, laying on of hands, and the blessing of God's Spirit upon the person being commissioned.

- For instance, missionaries, pastors, evangelists, and other Christian workers may undergo a commissioning ceremony before embarking on their ministry endeavors, symbolizing their consecration and dedication to God's service.

In summary, "commission" refers to the authority or instruction given for a specific task, while "commissioning" is the formal act of entrusting and empowering someone to fulfill that task in service to God's purposes. Both concepts are central to Christian discipleship and ministry, as believers are called to be ambassadors for Christ and to carry out His mission in the world.

- Why does Jesus ask Peter three times if he loves him?

What is the significance of Peter's response and Jesus' commission to him?

- What is the significance of Jesus entrusting Peter with the responsibility to feed and tend his sheep?

Restoration

Verse 15: Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him **to reaffirm Peter's commitment and to emphasize the importance of love in discipleship.** Peter's threefold affirmation of love corresponds to his earlier threefold denial of Jesus, highlighting his restoration and commission to shepherd Jesus' flock.

5. Verse 18-23: "Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

- What do you think Jesus means by this prediction about Peter's future?

- How does Peter's reaction to this prediction contrast with his earlier denial of Jesus?

Verse 23: What misunderstanding arises about the fate of the beloved disciple? How does Jesus clarify this misunderstanding and what does it reveal about his sovereignty? Why are they important today?

Verse 23: A misunderstanding arises about the fate of the beloved disciple, leading to speculation about his destiny. Jesus clarifies this

misunderstanding by redirecting the focus to the disciples' individual callings and reminding them of the sovereignty of God over their lives.

VIII. Message and Application today

Comparison:

While both passages occur after Jesus' resurrection and involve interactions between Jesus and his disciples, they describe different events. In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus commissions his disciples to make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In John 21:1-23, Jesus appears to his disciples by the Sea of Galilee, performs a miracle, shares a meal with them, and commissions Peter to shepherd his flock. While there are similarities in the themes of commissioning and discipleship, the contexts and specific events differ between the two passages.

Contemporary Relevance:

These passages hold relevance for contemporary audiences as they highlight Jesus' ongoing presence, provision, and commissioning of his followers. They remind believers of the importance of recognizing Jesus in their midst, trusting in his provision, and responding to his call to love and serve others. Additionally, they challenge individuals to examine their own commitment to discipleship and ministry in light of Jesus' commission to his disciples. Just as Jesus restored and commissioned Peter despite his past failures, contemporary audiences are encouraged to embrace forgiveness, restoration, and the call to serve in Jesus' name.

1. Matthew 28:16-20:

- **Application:** This passage, often called the Great Commission, challenges believers to actively participate in the mission of making disciples of all nations. Today, this means engaging in evangelism, discipleship, and mission work locally and globally. It calls us to share the message of Jesus Christ with others and to help them grow in their faith.

- **Meaning for Today:** The Great Commission reminds us of the global nature of Christianity and the call

- a) to reach people from every nation, tribe, and tongue with the Gospel message.
- b) It underscores the importance of obedience to Jesus' command and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling this mission.
- c) Presence of Christ guarantees power to accomplish the mission & we are never alone.

2. John 21:1-23:

- **Application:** This passage highlights Jesus' restoration of Peter and His call for him to shepherd His flock. It reminds us of the importance of repentance, forgiveness, and leadership within the Christian community. It also emphasizes the role of discipleship in following Jesus and serving others.

- **Meaning for Today:** John 21 encourages believers to:

- a) seek reconciliation and restoration in their relationships, particularly with fellow believers.
- b) It challenges us to examine our commitment to Christ and our willingness to serve Him wholeheartedly.
- c) It also reminds leaders within the church of their responsibility to care for and nurture the spiritual growth of God's people.

Overall, both passages emphasize the importance of discipleship, evangelism, and leadership in the Christian life.

They call believers to active participation in God's mission of reconciliation and redemption, both in their local communities and around the world. By applying the principles found in these passages, Christians today can live out their faith more fully and effectively, bringing glory to God and furthering His kingdom purposes.

