

**CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
[Adapted from Bethel Bible-  
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Oakleigh, Vic., 3166]

**DHW BIBLE CLASS**

**LESSON 43**

**THE LIFE OF CHRIST**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Our Lord Jesus has resurrected from the dead. He appeared to His disciples who were a frightened lot. His

resurrection was for the purpose of establishing the victory over death that Christ has accomplished for all the believers. That is the reason His appearances were only to believers. Unbelievers who do not believe His Word and death would obviously not believe even if He rises from the dead. Christ's restoration and reinstatement of Peter was not only carefully planned but was very convincingly completed that Peter who denied Christ three times was reinstated three times. This gives hope to all believers that if only we repent and come back to the LORD He will in no wise cast out. Our Lord has a plan and purpose for each of us. Thus, let us be faithful and remain faithful to the very end.

We have a blessed hope which is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. This final study is the crowning lesson on the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**UNDERSTANDING**

***The Lord Jesus Appeared to the Seven Who Were Fishing in Galilee***  
*John 21:1-24*

This is one of the most touching scene. The Lord Jesus appeared to seven of His disciples including Peter.

Thomas who was also called Didymus (not doubting Thomas), Nathanael, John and James, and two other disciples not named decided to join Peter who wanted to go fishing. This was no simple fishing trip. Peter felt "lousy" because he had denied the LORD three times after boasting out loud in front of the others that he would not reject Christ even if all the others did. He boasted that he would even die for Christ. All the previous appearances of the resurrected LORD had no mention of Peter's sin and restoration. Perhaps Peter felt rejected and unwanted and unworthy

to be Christ's disciple anymore. He wanted to go back to his old way of life i.e. to be a fisherman. They fished for the whole night but caught nothing.

It was very early in the morning. The Lord Jesus came and stood on the shore. The disciples did not recognize Him because there was insufficient light. The Lord Jesus called out to them. "Children have ye any meat?" Jesus called them "lads" (Greek, *paidion*), meaning a young person. The word "meat" (Greek, *prosphagion*) in the context refers to bread and fish for breakfast (compare to verse 9). They answered "No." The Lord Jesus told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat whereupon they caught a great number of fish, 153 in all. Considering that they had caught nothing the whole night, this was a miracle.

John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, said to Peter that it was the Lord Jesus. John and definitely Peter remembered the similarity of their call to discipleship some three years ago. The first calling to discipleship was to make them fishers of men. The catch was so great that the net broke. This was to show the disciples how great a "harvest" they would receive from the LORD if they were to be fishers of men. In this case, the net was about to break but did not. In fact the exact number of fish was mentioned for our encouragement. How is this encouragement to us?

On hearing this, Peter put on his cloak, jumped into the water and swam to shore. The others slowly paddled the boat to shore dragging the net full of fishes. When they reached the shore, they saw that the Lord Jesus had prepared breakfast for them. He had bread and fishes which had been laid on coals of fire. What a beautiful scene. They were tired, hungry, cold and wet. They had just experienced

the thrill of a big catch. And now their Master was with them. He had prepared breakfast and made a fire for them to warm themselves. Jesus told them to bring some of the fishes and invited them to "Come and dine." The Lord Jesus took the bread and the fish and gave it to them.

After they had dined, Jesus singled out Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas (calling his pre-conversion name), lovest thou me more than these?" Jesus used the form of love (Greek, *agapao*) that demands the highest devotion and sacrifice. Peter must have remembered his boast "though all *men* shall be offended because of thee, *yet* will I never be offended" (Matthew 26:33), and "I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death" (Luke 22:33). Peter answered, "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee." Peter used a lower form of love (Greek, *phileo*) that expresses close friendship. Notice Peter's submissive answer. Jesus called him to "Feed my lambs" restoring him as the leader of the group. Peter was to continue to lead and carry out the duty as a shepherd in teaching and caring for the "lambs" (young ones) who needed to be taught, led and guided. Jesus repeated his question to Peter using the same word "love". Peter answered the same way. This time Jesus told him to "Feed my sheep." The word for sheep refers to older sheep, those that were tame. Then the Lord Jesus asked Peter the third time. This time He used the "love" word that Peter used, "*phileo*" (meaning "friendship"). Peter was grieved and sad because Jesus asked him the third time. He was reminded of his denials of the Lord Jesus Christ and of his boast that he would suffer and die for Him. Peter submitted and acknowledged that the Lord Jesus "knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus once

again said, "Feed my sheep." There was no more boast from Peter, only a deep sense of remorse and dependence on the LORD to help Christ.

The Lord Jesus told Peter that when he was young, he went wherever he would but when he became old he would go where he would not. Jesus spoke concerning the manner of death whereby Peter would glorify God. Then Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me." He reinstated Peter's leadership of the group.

In Acts of the Apostles, Peter spearheaded the gospel movement to the Jews and the Gentiles. Peter saw John following and asked Jesus what about John, the disciple whom Jesus loved. The Lord Jesus answered, "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me" (John 21:22). Jesus' reply indicated that He is sovereign over the life and ministry of His disciples. It points to the individual responsibilities and duties of each disciple. The disciple's service is personal and individual.

John concluded his account of the record by declaring that his testimony is true, and that if all the works of the Lord Jesus were to be recorded --even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.

***The Lord Jesus Appeared to the Eleven and Five Hundred on the Mountain in Galilee***

*Matthew 28:16-20, 1 Corinthians 15:6*

Jesus went to a mountain in Galilee where He had arranged to meet His disciples. The exact location of this mountain was not given – could be the Mount of Beatitudes. Many Bible scholars place Paul's testimony of more than five hundred who witnessed the Lord Jesus' glorious appearance as this occasion. When the people saw Him, they worshipped

Him but some doubted. At the point of Paul's writing to the Corinthians (A.D. 57), about twenty years after the Lord Jesus' ascension, some had "fallen asleep" (meaning that they had gone to be with the Lord). At the mountain, the Lord Jesus declared that He possessed all power in heaven and on earth. He commanded them to go and "teach (Greek, *matheteuo*, meaning to make disciples of) all nations." He also commanded them to baptize them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, they were to teach (Greek, *didasko*, meaning to instruct, teach) the new converts to be careful and watchful and to do all things that He had commanded them. The Lord Jesus promised to be with them always even unto the end of the world.

The disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ were given the Great Commission to carry out the evangelization to the entire world. Indeed, the gospel of salvation had been preached in almost all the countries in the world! No earthly power or authority can countermand this commandment of the Lord. The most effective way of carrying out this world evangelization is for every disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ to witness to his loved ones, relatives and friends personally and individually. Of course, combined efforts can also be used, like, open-air or indoor gospel rallies. But this is secondary. Today with electronic mail and the internet, gospel outreach can be further enhanced.

Is this Great Commission for all believers or for evangelists and pastors only? One pastor said to his congregation that this is not for all believers as he does not want them to have a guilt trip if they do not wish to evangelize.

***The Lord Jesus Appeared to James His Brother***

*1 Corinthians 15:7*

This James was the half-brother of the Lord Jesus. During His earthly ministry, His brothers did not believe Him (John 7:2-9). James must have been converted after the Lord Jesus appeared to him. He became the leader or the pastor of the church in Jerusalem in which he played an important role as a moderator of the church (Acts 15). Paul's first contact with him was when he visited Jerusalem for a brief period (Galatians 1:19).

***The Lord Jesus Appeared to the Eleven on the Mount of Olives***

*Acts 1:3-8; Luke 24:50*

The Lord Jesus instructed His disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had been baptized with the Holy Spirit. When they asked Him when He would restore the kingdom to Israel, Jesus answered that it was not for them to know the times or the seasons. That was the prerogative of God the Father and His Son. He declared that their work was to carry out the program of evangelization -- be witnesses unto Him in Jerusalem, in all Judaea, in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth! They would need power which would be given to them when they were filled with the Holy Spirit as the Lord Jesus had promised.

The work of God must be done with God's help only. Any other way would be futile even if there are results and conversion. The blessing would not be upon the person who is doing the work even if God blesses the work. This is the sovereign will of God. For example some have equated Billy Graham with being a man of God simply because they have come to

know Christ through his evangelistic meetings. This is a wrong conclusion based upon a wrong theology. God used an ass to speak to Balaam and he can use anybody to speak to anyone also. People coming to know the LORD through your ministry does not conclusively point to you being a man of God or a servant of God and definitely not a reference to the fact that you are a believer. We need to have a biblical understanding on the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation.

***The Lord Jesus Appeared to Paul on the Damascus Road***

*Acts 9:1-6, 1 Corinthians 15:8*

The Lord Jesus appeared to Paul, a persecutor of the church, while he was on his way to Damascus. Paul himself testified of this incident and it was recorded by Luke the physician in Acts. This encounter turned Paul the persecutor into the greatest preacher for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul was thoroughly converted by the LORD Himself and his life was turned 180 degrees around. His calling to ministry was separated from His call to salvation. This was deliberately done by God to help Paul in his new ministry. Paul was devoted to this new direction with the same kind of zeal and fervency that he used to persecute Christians. Zealous persecutors of the church can become zealous preachers of God's Word.

***The Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ***

*Acts 1:9-12, Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:51-53*

After forty days with His disciples, the time had come for Him to ascend to Heaven, to be seated at the right hand of God interceding for His followers. Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. His disciples followed Him there where He was carried up to

heaven and into the clouds. While the disciples were looking up, two angels proclaimed that the Lord Jesus Christ would return in the same way as He was carried into Heaven. In other words, when the Lord Jesus returns, He will be bodily visible to all. What a glorious and blessed hope for all Christians. It will also be on the same mountain.

***The Lord Jesus Promised to Return***

*John 14:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 22:7, 12-13, 20.*

The Lord Jesus has promised that He will come back again. Paul prophesied by inspiration of the Holy Spirit that there will be Rapture (a snatching away) before the visible bodily return (Parousia) of the Lord Jesus Christ. This Rapture will be unannounced. It will take everyone by surprise except the obedient Christians. Those who had “fallen asleep” in Christ before His return will be bodily resurrected first. This is known as the first resurrection. This is a continuous event so much as that anyone believer who die during the Great Tribulation would be resurrected immediately. But the Rapture is a “dot” event where believers during the Great Tribulation would not be raptured immediately after they believe. Then those who are alive at the Rapture will be caught up, and together they will meet the Lord Jesus Christ “in the air.” After seven years of Great Tribulation the Lord Jesus will return to planet earth where He will destroy the enemies of His chosen people, convert Israel (144,000) and separate the sheep from the goats. He will then establish His millennial kingdom. After the reign of one thousand years, this present heavens and earth will be completely replaced by a New Heaven and a New Earth where there will be no more death or

sorrow or crying or pain. And the Lord Jesus promised not once but three times, “I come quickly.”

**PRACTICAL VALUE**

The Christian faith is founded on the Lord Jesus Christ. The fact that He is risen and not dead establishes the veracity of all His teachings. He is the Truth, the Life and the Way. He is the One and True Living God. No other religion has this Foundation Stone. Another vital fact is the promise of His return. This is the blessed hope of the Christian. The Lord Jesus Christ has not only risen from the dead, He is returning to planet earth one day. When that happens, it will be the end of the world system for He will establish His government and order. The Lord Jesus Christ will rule the earth. Every knee shall bow to Him. What a glorious hope for all Christians knowing that our suffering is but for a season.

Let us witness Christ to others so that they might hear, believe and be saved to the praise and glory of His Name. AMEN.

**DHW BIBLE CLASS**

**LESSON 43**

**THE LIFE OF CHRIST**

**DAILY READING & DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS**

**Daily Readings**

**MONDAY:** John 21:1-24, Matthew 28:16.

**TUESDAY:** Matthew 28:16-20, 1 Corinthians 15:6-7.

**WEDNESDAY:** Acts 1:3-8. Luke 24:50.

**THURSDAY:** Acts 9:1-6, 1 Corinthians 15:8

**FRIDAY:** Acts 1:9-12, Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:51-53; John 14:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 22:7, 12-13, 20.

**Discussion Questions**

**1. What do you think is John's purpose in including the 153 fish in the net?**

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**2. Why was love for the Lord Jesus an essential qualification for ministry?**

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**3. Is the Great Commission for ALL believers or for evangelists and pastors only?**

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**4. What words of comfort and assurance did the Lord Jesus give to His disciples?**

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**5. Will there ever be an end to the Great Commission where God's people do not need to evangelize any more?**

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**6. How can Calvary Pandan fulfil Acts 1:8?**

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**7. Why was the conversion and calling of Paul separated into two parts? God who saved Paul could surely have also called him too?**

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**8. Who will accompany Christ when he returns? Will you be there?**

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**9. What areas of your thoughts, attitude, opinions and behaviour have changed as a result of the study of the Life of Christ?**

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