

The Epilogue (Chapter 21)

Question as to Authority

- The conclusion to Chapter 20
- Raymond Brown and the Johannine School
- The proof of ancient MSS.

John, Chapter 20 conclusion

- Unusual ending has:
 - 2 post-resurrection events taking place in Jerusalem
- Disciples are commissioned to “go out”, empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Vs. 32 is the major purpose of this Gospel

John 21: Characteristics and Qualities

- Serves as the Epilogue but also the conclusion of the Canon of the Four Gospels
- Chapter 21 sums up Jesus’ identity and how the disciples should follow him within the gospel tradition
- Sets up the reader for the book of The Acts of the Apostles
- Chapter 21 also presents 2 post-resurrection accounts

C.S. Lewis: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe (The Narnia Chronicles)

- Aslan (the lion) is symbolic of Jesus, imagined in a world called Narnia
- Aslan died in the place of a traitor
- Aslan’s followers experience a loss of hope
- Aslan returns to life and is victorious
- His return produces great rejoicing

Jesus’ seaside appearance

- Jesus appears on the shore of the Sea of Tiberius (Galilee)
- Disciples in a boat, fishing for tialapia (St. Peter’s fish)
- Disciples do not recognize Jesus (delayed recognition common in post-resurrection appearances)
- Peter’s almost comical actions
- John’s recognition of Jesus
- Net of 153 fish
- Appearance emphasizes Jesus’ encounter in an “everyday” situation

Conversation with Peter: public

- Demonstrates the degree to which Peter is forgiven and restored
- Peter denied Jesus 3 times/Jesus asks Peter “Do you love me?” 3 times
- Language used:
 - Agapaō = GK. A deep, spiritual love

- Phileō = GK. A close friendship
- Jesus wants a spiritual love relationship with Peter, but settles for a friendship
- Jesus entrusts Peter with the care of his entire “flock”
- Vatican I (*Pastor aeternus*, chapter 1) declared that in this episode, Jesus appointed Peter the visible head and chief pastor of the universal church

Conversation with Peter: private

- Peter asks about John (the Beloved Disciple) but Jesus tells Peter it is not his business
- Jesus again commands Peter to “follow me”

John’s final words

- John declares:
 - He is a witness to Jesus
 - Who Jesus is
 - He is a testimony to others
 - He is a testimony to the gospel itself
 - His gospel is authentic, true, and valid, but not exhaustive

Søren Kierkegaard: “Only he who doubts can truly believe,”

Through our faith and willingness to follow, we are all now Beloved Disciples