

*Daily Devotional Guide to
the Book of John*

John Chapter 21

Days 227 - 235

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A Daily Devotional Study Of The Gospel Of John

You will need a Bible of your own to do this devotional study. Reading the Bible with an open heart and mind brings us into God's presence, and getting to know God is accomplished by spending time with him on a daily basis. This study is designed to develop or maintain the habit of meeting daily with God, sometimes referred to as a devotional time with God. It doesn't have to take a large chunk of time, but it needs to be focused on the Scriptures (the Bible). It doesn't have to cover a lot of material or content every day, it just needs to be understood and applied to our lives.

The study days are numbered so that you can do them any day of the week, preferably one each day. However, if you miss a day, it won't matter because the days are not assigned a date or day of the week.

My approach to the study is a verse by verse exploration and application of God's Word to our lives. This is an *inductive* study, which means that we derive meaning from the Biblical text itself rather than from outside sources. The passages for each day are short, to enable you to focus more in depth on a few verses at a time. I frequently bring additional Scripture into the discussion in an effort to ensure accurate interpretation of the day's topics.

How This Devotional Study Works

1. In your Bible, look up and read the verses for the day.
2. Write the first verse for the day in the top left space under *What it Says* (Row 1, Column 1).
3. Working left to right, read the comments in the *Meanings/Principles* space (Row 1, Column 2).
4. Then, write your answers to the questions to clarify *What it Means to Me* (Row 1, Column 3).
5. Continue by writing the next verse in Row 2, Column 1, reading Row 2 Column 2, and writing answers to questions in Row 2, Column 3.
6. Continue working left to right as you go down the page.

To summarize, first read through the verses in John for the day. Then write exactly what the first verse says in the first column. (*Write each verse word for word, exactly as it appears in the Bible in column one.*) After you write out each verse, read the second column that clarifies the important information given in that verse and then answer the questions in column three related to the verse. (*Work left to right. It is important to answer each question based on the verse and its meaning in column two.*)

You may choose to either 1) print pages and write in the spaces provided or 2) enter your responses on your computer. If you use your computer you can save your work, then come back and print at any time. If your response exceeds the space allowed you can scroll the text area to see the complete text; but if you print, some of the text may be hidden.

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:1</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 737"></div>	<p>Jesus came when they had spiritual need of him. They had returned to their livelihood of fishing in the Sea of Galilee.</p>	<p>Do I need Jesus right now, today? Why?</p> <div data-bbox="786 281 1524 737"></div>
<p>John 21:2</p> <div data-bbox="100 783 428 1383"></div>	<p>It was well documented by the eyewitnesses.</p>	<p>Where am I? Who am I with? Why?</p> <div data-bbox="786 783 1524 1383"></div>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:3</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 978" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 332px;"></div>	<p>Trying to do what we wish, or trying to make life less spiritual and less meaningful, only results in fruitless, tiring activity.</p>	<p>How do I try to reduce life to define it as this material, inconsequential world?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 625" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px;"></div> <p>What are the results?</p> <div data-bbox="789 663 1524 978" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px;"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 21:4 	In our times of need we are caught up in that need and don't realize that Jesus wants to help, is able to help, and in fact is standing on shore calling to us.	Am I expecting Jesus to help with the need I have today?
John 21:5 	We have to acknowledge our need to Jesus so that he can provide.	Am I ready to listen to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
John 21:6	<p>Jesus can provide a living and sustenance. He had provided for thousands of people to eat. His provision is abundant because he has no restrictions on his power, mercy, or grace. We just need to obey him. Sometimes we aren't ready to obey him until we have tried all of our own most clever ideas and worked ourselves to exhaustion. Success is not a matter of our luck, timing, hard work, ingenuity, experience, intelligence, commitment, plans, or effort!</p>	Am I ready to do what Jesus tells me?

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:7</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 1260" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 466px;"></div>	<p>John recognized Jesus first. Peter wanted to be with Jesus as soon as he could.</p>	<p>Do I recognize Jesus when he comes to help me?</p> <div data-bbox="789 281 1524 735" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 216px;"></div> <p>Am I aware that he wants to help with the burdens I carry today? These are my burdens today:</p> <div data-bbox="789 806 1524 1260" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 216px;"></div>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:8</p>	<p>They were forced to wait to see Jesus because of the fish. It was not their failure that kept them from getting to Jesus, but their success!</p>	<p>What do I allow to come between me and Jesus?</p>
<p>John 21:9</p>	<p>Jesus already had fish for them to eat, and even bread. He didn't need their efforts to provide for them, but Jesus cared about and provided for their physical needs.</p>	<p>Would I rather spend time with Jesus who gives what I need, or strive to provide what I think I need?</p> <p>Balance this with I Thessalonians 4: 11-12. Even the great Apostle Paul with his great call from God, worked to provide for himself even while he was a missionary so that he would not be indebted to anyone. How does obedience to Jesus look when applied to my situation today?</p>

Day 229 **Read John 21:7-9**

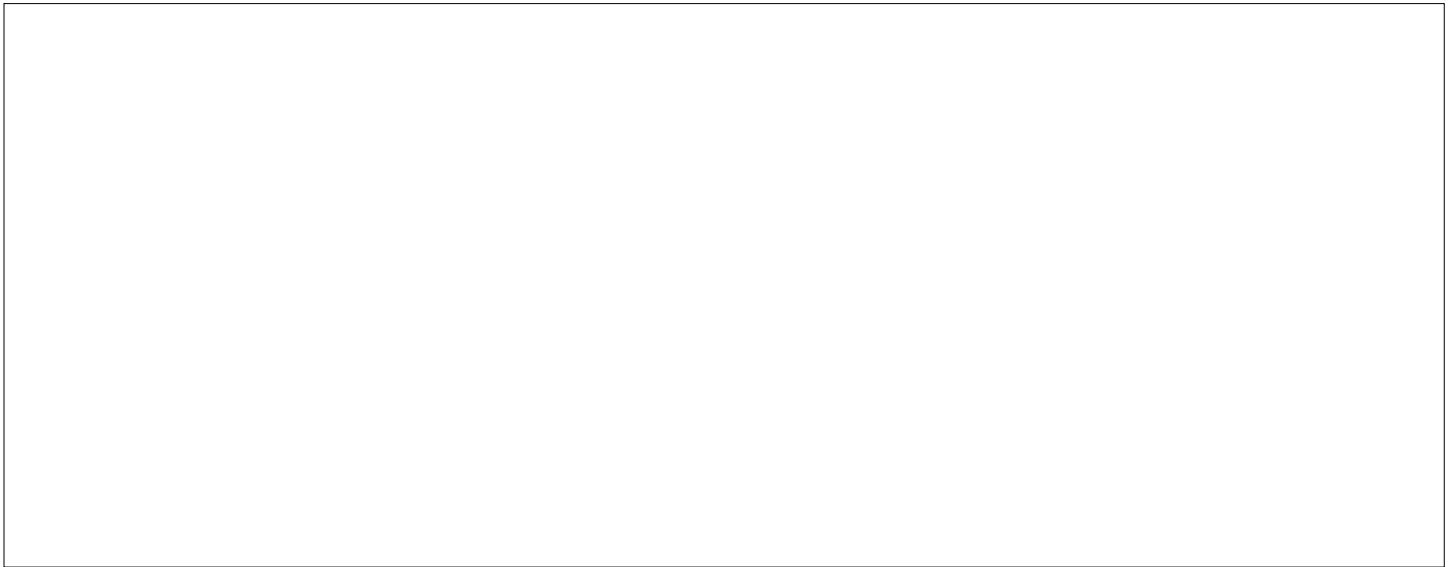
What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:10</p>	<p>Jesus provides abundantly. We share and give from what he provides.</p>	<p>How do I feel about giving back some of what God has provided? (II Corinthians 9:7)</p> <p>What do I know about tithes and offerings? (I Corinthians 16:2) Do I consistently act on what I know?</p>
<p>John 21:11</p>	<p>Peter helped bring in the abundance. Jesus also provided for them to be able to handle the abundance.</p>	<p>Am I worried about handling what God has provided?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:12</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 300px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Jesus invites us to spend time with him, to fellowship with him, based on his provision of the opportunity, time, place, and meeting our needs.</p>	<p>Am I worried about the time or responsibilities Jesus has freed me from so that I can spend time with him?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>What does he desire for me? How does he want me to spend the time he has provided?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 21:13</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>It is Jesus who meets our needs and provides for us.</p>	<p>Am I anxious or can I choose to be thankful and excited about the adventure life can be with Jesus?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>

Day 230 ***Read John 21:10-13***

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:14</p>	<p>Jesus had appeared to individuals and smaller groups, but he had specifically appeared to the disciples in John 20:19-23 to prove that he was indeed alive, to cause them joy in understanding that it truly was Jesus, to bestow peace on them, to commission or send them out, to breathe the Holy Spirit upon them, and to give them a portion of his priestly role as Intercessor for humankind.</p> <p>The second time (John 20:24-29), Jesus came to bring them peace, to show himself to Thomas so he could stop doubting and believe, and to announce how blessed were those who had not seen Jesus or his crucifixion wounds but still believed.</p>	<p>As a follower of Jesus, do I accept all that he gave to his followers: his resurrection, joy, peace, commissioning, the Holy Spirit, an intercessory role, belief and an end to doubts, along with his blessing?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:15</p>	<p>Peter had declared he would lay down his life for Jesus (John 13:37-38); he had been commanded to put his sword away so that he would not be harmed when Jesus was arrested (John 18:8-11); and he had denied Jesus three times, just as Jesus had know and said that he would (John 18:15-27). At this point, Peter had no doubt been on an emotional roller coaster for the last few weeks. He knew the depths of his own weakness and depravity and the depths of Jesus' knowledge, power, love, and forgiveness.</p>	<p>What issues in life tend to take me on an emotional roller coaster ride? Why?</p>
<p>John 21:16</p>	<p>Jesus reestablished what was important for Peter in his relationship with him. Peter loved Jesus with all his being, as we are commanded to love God in the greatest commandment (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37-38). Peter's love for Jesus was to be directed into loving care for Jesus' followers.</p>	<p>Do I love Jesus as I am supposed to love God, with my whole being?</p> <p>Do I direct my love for God into caring for other believers?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:17</p>	<p>Must Peter state three times that he loves Jesus, just as he denied him three times?</p> <p>Must he state two times that he <i>truly loves</i> Jesus with his whole being and still be questioned?</p> <p>For the third time, did he <i>love</i> Jesus, did he have “affection or fondness” (<i>NIV Study Bible</i> note) for the Jesus he had followed and known and loved?</p> <p>If so, he should “feed” and care for the other believers, new and old. Peter’s particular calling involved <i>spiritually</i> feeding the body of Christ (Christ’s followers or sheep).</p>	<p>Do I love Jesus as my friend? Do I have any affection for Jesus?</p> <p>Why can I trust Jesus like no earthly friend?</p> <p>How can I care for the body of Christ (true followers of Jesus) today?</p>

Day 231

Read John 21:14-17

What would I like to say to Jesus?



What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:18</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 1394"></div>	<p>Jesus told Peter that he would live to an old age but stretch out his hands (be crucified). Because of his love for Jesus, Peter would share the death that Jesus endured.</p>	<p>How much do I love Jesus? Enough to be crucified for following him?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 1394"></div>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:19</p>	<p>Peter's death would bring glory to God. It would be caused by Peter's love for Jesus, God's Son, and by the way Peter would live the rest of his life because of his love for Jesus.</p> <p>Jesus invited and commanded Peter to follow him.</p>	<p>How can I follow Jesus <i>while I am alive</i>, according to Romans 12:1?</p> <p>Read the remainder of Romans Chapter 12. It contains practical tips on how to live a life that is a living sacrifice to God. Rather than worrying about how and when I might die, using Romans 12 how can I focus on <i>living</i> for Jesus right now?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

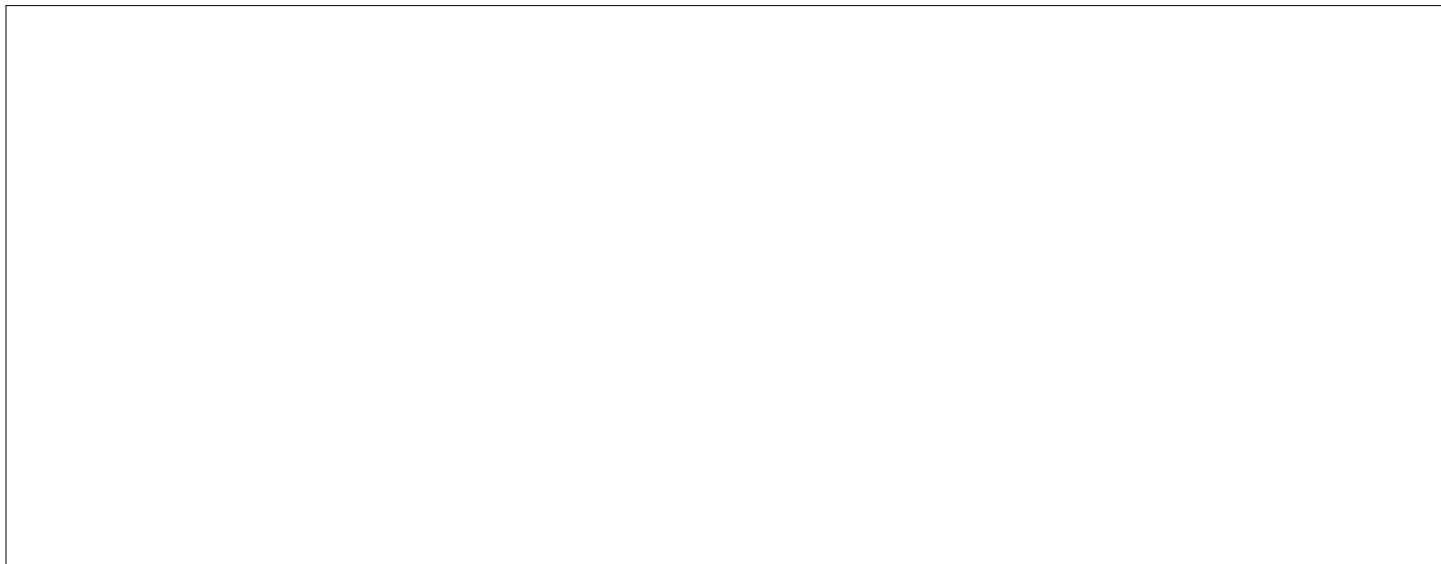
What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:20</p>	<p>When we follow Jesus, we must understand that he has commanded others to follow him also. Being close to Jesus does not prohibit others from being close to Jesus. Everyone's relationship with Jesus is unique. John, the author of this book, followed Jesus closely and knew all of the people and events that he recorded in this written account of Jesus' life. John's close relationship with Jesus came from Jesus' love for him, which no doubt came from John's great love for Jesus. Jesus knew John's heart and he knows my heart.</p>	<p>What kind of Christians do I envy? Why?</p> <p>What is unique or not unique about my relationship with Jesus? How would I characterize or define my relationship with Jesus?</p> <p>How have I experienced Jesus' love?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:21</p>	<p>Our tendency is to be jealous of our Christian brothers and sisters. We try to compare ourselves, our relation with the Lord, and our calling to others' positions in the kingdom of God and even outside of the kingdom of God. Sometimes we think that what God calls us to is harder or less blessed than what he calls others to!</p>	<p>What is the connection between my calling and my relationship with Jesus?</p> <p>Who made me and why?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:22</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 1329" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 499px;"></div>	<p>Jesus said that he will return.</p> <p>Jesus tells us to focus on following him.</p> <p>What others do in the kingdom is Jesus' concern, not mine.</p> <p>What Jesus wants from me is obedience.</p>	<p>How long do I need to follow Jesus?</p> <div data-bbox="789 281 1524 527" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 117px;"></div> <p>How can I stop comparing myself to others and merely follow Jesus?</p> <div data-bbox="789 596 1524 980" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 183px;"></div> <p>How am I demonstrating my love for Jesus today?</p> <div data-bbox="789 1018 1524 1329" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 148px;"></div>

Day 233 ***Read John 21:20-22***

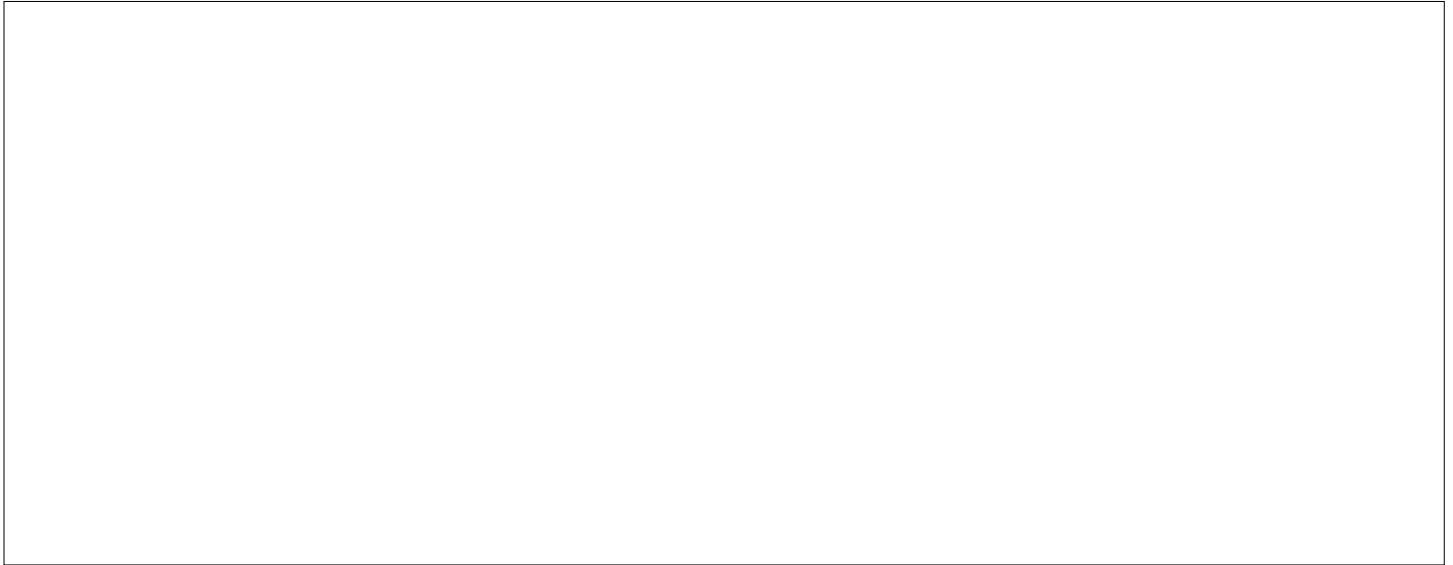
What would I like to say to Jesus?

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Day 234

Read John 21:23-24

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 21:25</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 1535" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 597px;"></div>	<p>Each person Jesus redeemed, healed, and blessed could write a book about their interaction with Jesus.</p>	<p>In what ways was John's account of the life of Jesus unique and meaningful?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 905" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 283px;"></div> <p>What could I write that Jesus has done in my life?</p> <div data-bbox="789 947 1524 1535" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 280px;"></div>

Day 235

Read John 21:25

Not everyone will write a book. What will I do with everything Jesus has given me, shown me, and done for me? (Rather than making promises, ask Jesus to reveal his will and to help you accomplish what *he* has planned. (Matthew 5:33-37)
What would I like to say to Jesus?

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