

Dinner with Jesus (8)
Breakfast with the Risen King
(John 21:1–17)

Vision (2026): *Strain to Love: Sharing the Table of Christ*

Mission: *Every Chair Filled, Every Heart Engaged*

Introduction: Welcome to the final message in our *Dinner with Jesus* series. Throughout this journey, we've seen Jesus dine with sinners and saints, challenge religious hypocrisy, and demonstrate grace around the table. But today, we come not to dinner, but to breakfast—and not just any breakfast, this breakfast is *being cooked by the Lord Jesus Himself over an open fire. And as the Good Shepherd becomes the Good Chef.* At this meal we'll see *Jesus restores and recommissions us after failure.*

I. The catch – Provision in their failure (John 21:1–8)

A. The Disciples

1. Jesus instructed the disciples to meet Him in Galilee (Mark 16:7).
2. They had just endured the crucifixion, resurrection, and post-resurrection appearances.
3. Peter leads a return to fishing, joined by six others.

B. The Decision

1. Peter returns to what's familiar (John 21:3).
2. Whether from confusion, provision, or shame, the result is a night of failure: "They caught nothing."

C. The Direction

1. Jesus appears unrecognized and instructs them to cast the net on the right side (John 21:6).
2. They obey and catch 153 large fish (cf. Luke 5:1–11).
3. Jesus demonstrates His Lordship over nature and need.

D. The Discovery

1. Empty nets are filled when we obey His voice.
 2. Spiritual fruitfulness requires surrender, not skill (cf. Psalm 127:1; John 15:5).
- Adrian Rogers:* "The same voice that stilled the sea can fill the net."

Spurgeon: "We are not to see that they like it, but that they get it."

II. The goals – Preparation for fellowship (John 21:7–14)

A. The comprehension

1. John recognizes Jesus: "It is the Lord!"
2. Peter impulsively swims to shore (John 21:7).

B. The charcoal fire

1. Jesus has already prepared fish and bread (John 21:9).
2. Only two charcoal fires in Scripture: here and Peter's denial (John 18:18).
3. Jesus is redeeming the very place of Peter's failure.

C. The call – "Come and eat"

1. Jesus serves a meal before addressing Peter's sin (John 21:12–13).
2. *Wiersbe:* "Jesus fed Peter before He dealt with his spiritual needs."
3. God's provision often precedes spiritual healing.

D. The communion

1. Jesus invites His disciples to intimacy, not just a meal (Revelation 3:20).
2. This is table ministry modeled (cf. Psalm 23:5; Luke 22:29–30).
3. *Max Lucado:* "God doesn't love us less if we fail... He just loves us."

III. The commission – Purpose after collapse (John 21:15–17)

A. The Confrontation

1. "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?"
2. A public restoration following public failure (cf. Matthew 26:33; Luke 22:33).

B. The Confession

1. Three questions for three denials.
2. Jesus uses *agapao*; Peter replies with *phileo*—until Jesus meets him in his language.

John MacArthur: "Jesus accepts your love at the level you can express."

C. The Concern

1. Jesus is after Peter's heart, not just his loyalty.
Wiersbe: "Love is the only true motivation for ministry."
2. Each affirmation leads to a recommission: "Feed My sheep" (1 Peter 5:2).

D. The Confirmation

Max Lucado: "God is offering breakfast to the friend who betrayed Him."

John Piper: "Your sin is certain... your restoration is certain also."

Peter will go on to preach at Pentecost (Acts 2), lead the church, and write Scripture—because grace triumphed over guilt.

Conclusion: The last meal of the Gospels is not a feast for the righteous—it's breakfast for the broken. Jesus still says: "Come and eat."

Invitation:

To the believer sidelined by failure: Jesus says, "Do you love Me? Feed My sheep."

To the seeker: Jesus forgives and restores. Receive Him today (Romans 10:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Vision in Action:

Strain to Love: Sharing the Table of Christ.

Every Chair Filled. Every Heart Engaged.

Jesus still prepares breakfast for failures and sends them back into mission.