

# FINAL WORDS TO HIS DISCIPLES



## PRECEPT

### JOHN 21:1-19

<sup>1</sup> Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

(Read the rest of the verses 4-19.)

## PROMISE

The tomb was empty. Jesus has risen! Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Christianity is just another dead religion, following the teachings of a dead founder. But because the resurrection of Jesus really happened, we have hope! Our faith and preaching is not useless, and we are forgiven for all our sins! Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, *"If Christ hasn't been raised, then our preaching is useless and your faith is useless... If Christ hasn't been raised, then your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins..."* We have much evidence to support the claim that Jesus has risen and is alive, unlike world views such as Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, and Hinduism which are bankrupt of evidence. Not only do we have the Gospels, Paul's letters, Acts, 1 Peter, and the Hebrews, we also have non-Christian sources like the Jewish Talmud, Babylonian Talmud, Lucian, and historical sources like Clement of Rome, Polycarp, Josephus, Thallus, Tacitus, and more. The resurrection of Christ does the following:

### RECONCILES US TO GOD AND REASSURES US OF HIS FORGIVENESS.

We have good reasons to believe that Jesus rose from the dead and all counter-arguments are nothing but a hoax and maliciously misleading and deceitful. Our faith is not useless, we can have hope in Him. He reconciled us to God, and because of His resurrection, all our sins are forgiven.

**RECONNECTS AND REUNITES US WITH GOD'S FAMILY.** When Jesus was arrested, Peter denied Him and the rest abandoned Him, yet He called them children, part of His family. We must know that our failures are not a measurement of His love for us. He loves us and wants us to be a part of His family regardless of what we have done to Him. That is what Jesus died for, to connect and unite us to God's family.

**REAWAKENS AND RE-ENERGIZES OUR DESIRE TO BE INVOLVED IN GOD'S PLAN.** Jesus wants us to be involved in His plans. When He fed the multitude fish and bread, He didn't need the boy in order to do His miracle, but He encourages our involvement and wants to bless our efforts if we choose to be involved.

**REFRESHES AND RECHARGES OUR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH.** In John 21, when the disciples were trying to catch fish for a long time and caught nothing, Jesus saw how tired they were and prepared a meal for them, He served them and invited them to eat with Him (verses 12-13). He is not only concerned about their mental health, but also for their physical health.

**REINSTATES AND RESTORES US FROM OUR BROKENNESS.** Peter was broken after he failed to keep his promise to Jesus. He said "They might deny but, but not me! I will never ever deny you." (Matthew 26:35). Then, hours after, he denied Jesus three times. Despite Peter's failure, Jesus reinstated him and restored him. Broken, yet forgiven, and restored.

**REVIVES AND REVITALIZES US TO SERVE AND FOLLOW JESUS WHATEVER THE COST.** All the disciples of Jesus were discouraged, hopeless, and fearful, but when they met the risen Christ, they became fearless, hopeful, and followed Christ whatever it cost.

## PRACTICE

**1. Impact of Resurrection.** How does the resurrection of Jesus impact your life today? Give some examples.

**2. Whatever the Cost.** Christ's final words to His disciples are "Follow Me" in John 21:19, what does this look like in your life? What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?

## PRAYER

### I. Young Once Life Connections

- Pray for Alipao couple as they continue to lead this group.

### II. Young Couples Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples groups: Oliveros, Imperial, & Gumasing.

### III. Circles

- Pray for Manalo couple as they shepherd the youth and singles in following the likeness of Christ.

### IV. North Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo & Ico.

### V. South Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the South groups: Drapeza & Tablan.

### VI. West Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum, Fabregas, and Gamboa.

### VII. East Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo & Torres.