

- What was the response of the women in the Matthew passage? What was the response of the disciples in the Matthew passage?
- Read John 21:12 (again). Even though the John passage records the third appearance by Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection (John 21:14), and they had seen Jesus perform many miracles before his death, why do you think they responded so cautiously to Jesus after he did such an amazing miracle?

Before the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, the relationship between the disciples and Jesus often seemed to be familiar and casual. In the John passage, the disciples had exclaimed, "It is the Lord!" Jesus had risen from and defeated death. The disciples' physical response to Jesus – of falling down before him and worshipping him - was a tangible acknowledgement of the Lordship of Christ.

Jesus invites us into a relationship with him. But, at the same time, that relationship requires us to acknowledge the sovereignty of God in our lives and obey him. In Jesus' words: "You are my friends if you do what I command." (John 15:14)

READ JOHN 21:14-23

In the NIV translation, this passage has the header: "Jesus reinstates Peter". This header, though, is a late addition and can skew how we read the passage. Jesus' question to Peter – "do you love me?" – also precedes two commands by Jesus and a prophecy about how Peter will die. Jesus was also asking Peter: do you love me (enough) to obey me, even though this obedience will mean you will have to leave the life you've always known and that this obedience will cost you your life?

- What were the commands that Jesus gave to Peter:
 - John 21:15-17 (given three times). What sort of ministry is Jesus referring to?
 - John 21:19, 22 (given twice).
- Read Phil 2:8. What example did Jesus give us?
- When we think about the early apostles in the New Testament, such as Paul, Peter and Stephen, what sorts of things did they deal with, while seeking to be obedient to Christ? (2 Cor 11:23-27) Would you be willing to endure these sorts of trials?

READ MATT 28: 18-20 (NLT) (below)

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Circle the five verbs/ actions in this passage. Which ones do you find hard to do? Which ones have you never done? Which of these do you do regularly?
- If we name some key New Testament people (eg Peter, Paul, James the brother of Jesus, Lydia, Priscilla and Aquila, ...), where did they 'go' (or 'stay') to fulfil these commands? Other than intentional travel, what other things forced people to be 'mobile' in the 1st century AD Roman world?

APPLICATION/ RESPONSE: Have you been challenged or encouraged by things that you've discussed in this study? Take a moment to quietly consider these statements and how you need to respond to this study this year. If you feel comfortable, share your response with your group. Then, pray for each other.

- I want to be like Peter – and develop a passion for meeting with Jesus.
- I want to accept Jesus' invitation – to spend (more) time with him, both privately and with other believers – and learn from him and his word.
- I want to fall at Jesus' feet and worship him, proclaiming him as my Lord.
- I want to commit myself to following Jesus and obeying his word, whatever that costs.
- I want to obey Jesus, by making disciples, who will also follow Jesus.