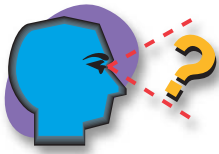
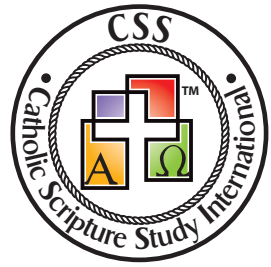


John



Responses to the Questions

NOTE: BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS YOURSELF BEFORE READING THE ANSWERS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS STUDY.

Read John 21:1-25

1. John 21's resurrection narrative recalls both the miraculous draught of fishes in Luke 5 and the miracle of the loaves and fishes. They point to the Church's mission as "fishers of men" and to Jesus ongoing presence with the Church in the Eucharist which the miracle of the loaves and fishes prefigures.
2. The nets do not break, suggesting that with the grace of the Risen Christ, the Church will be empowered to bring in the full "catch" of the nations to which the Church is now sent.
3. As in the Resurrection account of John 20, John the contemplative sees and believes first, but Peter the Activist, acts first. John immediately recognizes Jesus, but it is Peter who leaps in the water to come to him. John sees both aspects to the Church as vital to the health of the Body of Christ.
4. Why is the charcoal fire a significant detail (See *Points to Ponder*)? It was at a charcoal fire that Peter denied Jesus three times. Now it is at a charcoal fire that he is going to profess his love for Jesus.
5. What is significant about the number of fish caught? According to St. Jerome, 153 species of fish were known in antiquity, so this number stands for the all nations of the world and "catch" which the apostolic "fishers of men" are to haul into the Barque of Peter, the Church.
6. Because Peter denied him three times.
7. The penance and the mission are one and the same: Feed and tend Jesus' sheep, the flock which is his Church. This penance suggests that the purpose of penance is redemptive, not punitive. The point is for Peter to repair the damage he has done and also for him and the flock to profit spiritually at the same time.
8. How do vv. 18-19 relate to the Church's Tradition concerning the death of Peter? The tradition of the Church (not explicitly recorded anywhere in Scripture) is that Peter was crucified upside down in Rome during the reign of Nero. This passage from John reflects the fact that this is indeed what happened. It also reflects the fact that John's audience, like John, is well aware of what happened, since John records it without explanation, strongly suggesting that his audience knows what Jesus is referring to.



Responses to the Questions (cont.)

9. What does Jesus command Peter when he tries to pry into the Lord's plans for the beloved disciple? What does that suggest about our own walk with Christ? "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!" This strongly suggests that we should do likewise, both in terms of following Jesus and in terms of not wasting time comparing ourselves to others or trying to peer into the future rather than living in the present.

10. Does John intend to write a complete biography of Jesus? What then is he doing (see John 20:30-31)? No. John is writing to impart the information necessary so that we may know the truth about Jesus, believe in him, and have life in his name. There is a great deal of information that John doesn't bother with because it is not germane to his purpose or is already written in one of the other three gospels. What he relates is, however, true and accurate.