

6/1/25

## **Gospel Meeting**

Guest Speaker

Jay Dixon

June 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM Nightly

Sunday morning Bible Study, 10 AM

Sunday morning worship 11 AM

Sunday evening worship 6 PM

# seeking Truth

South End  
CHURCH of CHRIST

Southend Church of Christ,  
250 Hwy 317, Neon, Ky 41840  
[www.southendchurchofchrist.org](http://www.southendchurchofchrist.org)

### **Service Times**

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00AM

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

**Everyone is Welcome To Attend!**

## **"Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"**

By: David Carrozza

This was a painful question posed to the Son of Jonah. Not simply because of their three-year, deep, dynamic and devoted relationship but because of the time and place, where and when it occurred.

When Jesus first met Peter, three years earlier, it was at or close to this exact place on the shore of Galilee. Simon was fishing. Three of the four gospels tell us that Jesus met and called Simon Peter when he was fishing. [Matthew 4, Luke 5 and John 1]. And...Luke captures for posterities sake, that at the first calling, Jesus advised Simon and the others to cast their nets one more time. Just trust me, and Peter obeyed.

"4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net." Luke 5:4-5

Matthew states matters more succinctly, "for they [Andrew and Peter] were fishermen." It was who they were, what they did and apparently what they loved. Jesus took this love and vocation and said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Combining for the kingdom, Peter's passion, love and way of life.

John in the last chapter of his gospel, tells us that Jesus meets Peter again. Once more at the same place and under the same circumstances: By the sea and fishing.

There had been two other encounters where Jesus had shown himself to the twelve [the disciples], this was the third. John tells us that between the last and this appearance, Peter told the others, "I am going fishing." [John 21:2] Peter was going back to what he loved and what he did.

Jesus, meets Peter at the place and under the circumstances of their first encounter, when Peter and the others, "brought their boats to land, they [a]forsook all and followed Him." Luke 5:11.

This third encounter with Peter was deeply symbolic, emotional, and powerful. It had to draw up painful, troubling memories of love, devotion, triumph, passion, glory and of course the most recent, a test of character and loyalty about which Peter bragged but utterly failed. All of these complex emotional experiences were in the confusing context of a resurrected Jesus and what all that meant.

Included in the deeply symbolic mixture was the number three. This was Jesus' third appearance with the disciples. He asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" This on the heels of the three times Peter had denied him. After Jesus spent three days in the tomb. Peter among the three closest of Jesus' disciples. The three, Peter, James and John saw at the transfiguration, Moses, Elijah and Jesus. And the three years of Jesus "active" mission proclaiming "the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

There is a deep tenderness and lesson for us recorded in this seaside meeting between the Master and his disciple. Jesus knew all of the relationship dynamics between him and this close friend, both past, present and future. Jesus takes all these complex experiences and starts with Peter from the beginning. At the shore, watching Peter do what he loved, who he was [a fisherman] and how he worked, wrestled and struggled with hard days fishing. There would be hard days ahead fishing for men. >>>

>>> Jesus even goes back to the first name he used when calling Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah" three years ago. Jesus knew Peter loved fishing and that way of life in spite of its hardness and days of failure. Jesus remembered how Peter left all to become a "fisher of men", so he asks, "Do you [still] love me more than these?" The sea, the boats, fishing for fish, fishing for a living, this vocation and calling?

It was a hard question to hear, and Peter heard it three times. The first two times Jesus' uses 'agape' for love [the unconditional, sacrificial love] to which Peter responded, "You know that I 'phileo' you" [like a good friend or brother] After all Peter had just failed his previous and braggadocios claims of unfailing agape love. On the third asking, "Do you love me?" Jesus meets Peter where he's at in their relationship, "Do you love me [phileo] as a brother and friend?" To this Peter says, "LORD you know I love you [as a friend and brother.] Jesus accepts this love, and he still calls Peter to be that friend and "feed my sheep."

I find a few lessons and personal applications:

Love whether agape [unconditional, unfailing] or phileo [brotherly, friendship] is at the CORE of our relationship with

Jesus, the Father and the Spirit

Love has definitions and expectations. At a minimum they are TRUSTING and OBEYING

Love is more than a feeling, it is MANIFESTED

Whatever else [good or bad] that we love in this world, we must love God MORE.

### Devine Warnings and Human Choices

By: Jay Dixon

Despite Israel's irreverence, it was never GOD's desire that His people die. Jeremiah the prophet was given a message from GOD in Jeremiah 26 and instructed to not diminish a word.

The intent of the message was that they may listen, change their minds and obey. If they would, GOD would relent in enforcing the consequences of their evil ways. But, if they refused to listen, GOD vowed to make their house like Shiloh, and their city a curse to all the nations of the earth. Jeremiah 26:1-6.

As a result of this difficult message Jeremiah's life was threatened.

"...the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, "You will surely die!"  
"...all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD." Jeremiah 26:8-9

"...the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, "This man deserves to die! For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears."  
Jeremiah 26:11

This was not unusual for Jeremiah. He was charged with delivering very challenging messages, which were often unpopular. However, these messages were a direct consequence of the choices made by the people and their leaders. In other words, the messages could have been different if the people had made different choices.

Jeremiah had to deliver difficult messages to GOD'S people because their choices warranted such. Truth is truth, regardless of our desire to hear it, willingness to accept it, or courage to speak it.