



RBC CONNECT GROUP STUDY FOR WEEK 26/4/20

POST RESURRECTION - BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH PART 1

Read: John 21: 1-14 (for background to the story)

Study Text: John 21: 15-19

As you read John 21: 1-14 there are at least two instances that previously happened, particularly regarding Peter.

- 1) **Can you identify them?**
- 2) **What do you think is the overall focus (in one word) of John 21:15-19?**

Try to put yourself in Peter's place. Where was he? What was he doing? How would he have felt? List as many of Peter's thoughts and feelings that you can think of.

To me the word that best describes this breakfast on the beach is *forgiveness*.

Psychologists generally define forgiveness as a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group who has harmed you.

The word 'forgive' means to wipe the slate clean, to pardon, to cancel a debt. When we wrong someone, we seek his or her forgiveness in order for the relationship to be restored. It is important to remember that forgiveness is not granted because a person deserves to be forgiven. Instead, it is an act of love, mercy, and grace.

- 3) **Why would Peter want Jesus to forgive him?**
- 4) **What would be the consequences (more broadly than this beach scene) if Jesus hadn't forgiven Peter?**

I am sure that you have heard many people (after someone has hurt or abused them) declare that will never, ever forgive the perpetrator.

- 5) **What is the emotional, mental and spiritual problem with that attitude?**

In Hebrews 12:15 we read, 'See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.'

Bitterness is one of the deep consequences of refusing to offer forgiveness when it is required.

6) What does the term 'root' suggest to you regarding bitterness?

Upon receiving Jesus' forgiveness Peter was able to let go of his feelings of shame, guilt and unworthiness. He was able to rise up, as it were, and take up his original calling to follow Jesus and become the 'Rock' upon which the church would be built, even to the point of his own martyrdom.

Welcome now the abundant grace of God: in Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

And let God's love comfort and heal your soul.

Redeeming God,

in You, we are always welcomed and accepted,

always forgiven and renewed.

Draw us closer to You, today and always.

Amen.