

'REST IN THE LORD' MESSAGES 4 U

4. GALILEE AGAIN

SHALOM! Peace be with you!

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all their host by the breath of His mouth.
Psalm 33: 6

You Lord, have made the heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and You preserve them all, and the hosts of heaven worship You.

Nehemiah 9: 6

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Psalm 150: 6

O Lord; You are my God, Let Your face shine on Your servant.

Psalm 31: 14, 16

THE AARONIC BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace



Numbers 6: 24 – 26

Let the words of Jesus to His disciples also be a blessing 4 U.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace to you!'

John 20: 19

During His ministry, Jesus had told His disciples that He would see them and be with them again in Galilee.

After I am raised up to life again, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Matthew 26: 32

Also, do you remember the message of the angel to the women on that first Easter morning?

Go quickly and tell His disciples, He has risen from the dead and He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. Matthew 28: 7

Now Galilee is your destination again; and like the disciples long ago, you're in a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee enjoying lovely views in all directions -

A land good and large, a land flowing with milk and honey, a land of plenty.

Exodus 3: 8

Yes, the landscape of Galilee is so beautiful and green in the spring and the lake such a deep, deep blue. Your fishing boat is scarcely moving, so what can you hear? Can you hear the water gently lapping against the sides of the boat? There's hardly another sound to be heard, only the whirring sound of wings as birds occasionally fly low overhead.

As you, '*Rest in the Lord,*' this great stillness and deep silence of Galilee seem to surround and envelop you. You feel calm and serene like the waters of the lake. You have never experienced a silence quite like this before or such a feeling of peace and tranquillity – even of awe and wonder. In the beauty of Galilee, God's holy presence is everywhere around you.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Psalms 96: 9

There must have been a similar stillness on the lake, when the disciples had toiled all night fishing and caught nothing. Then, with the coming of dawn and breaking the silence, came that voice calling from the nearby shore, with these words saying:

Have you caught anything?

Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find. John 21: 5, 6

It was the risen Lord! Jesus had come to Galilee again to see them and be with them, just as the angel had said and Jesus had foretold.

The Lord, indeed, is a faithful God.

In your imagination can you see the disciples hauling in that amazing catch and dragging the net full of fish to the shore? Can you picture the disciples on the beach enjoying that wonderful breakfast with the risen Lord?

Pause and ponder over the unforgettable words of Jesus to Simon Peter after breakfast was over.

These words of Jesus, spoken three times, must surely also speak to us.

*Simon, son of John, do you love Me?
Feed My lambs. Feed My sheep.*

John 21: 15 – 17

Simon, son of John, was the disciple who was renamed Peter (meaning a rock) by the Lord. Simon Peter truly believed that Jesus was the Christ, the promised Messiah and had previously declared his belief with these words -

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 16: 16

You have the words of eternal life.

John 6: 68

It was on these words of Peter's faith in the Lord, like a rock, that the Lord Jesus Christ was to build His Church.



Jesus said:

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 16: 19

But it was this same Peter who had denied and disowned Jesus three times after His betrayal and arrest.

As Jesus had foretold -
the cock crowed and Peter wept bitterly!



However, in God's faithful Word –

We know all things work together for good to those who love God.

Romans 8: 28

For Peter all things did work out, because after breakfast was over, our Lord graciously reinstated and commissioned him, for the Apostle Peter truly did love the Lord.

Lord, You know everything; You know that I love you

John 21: 17

Meditate on these words and on the Lord's final words to Peter.

'Follow Me! You follow Me!'

John 21: 19, 22

Yes, Peter did follow in the footsteps of Jesus and kept looking to Jesus all the way for the rest of his life.

Peter, therefore, could truly say:

My eyes are ever toward the Lord.

Psalm 25: 15

'Looking to Jesus,' for Peter was the only way for peace and inner strength, enabling him to love and serve the Lord by feeding the Lord's lambs and sheep.

'Looking to Jesus' was the only way for Peter to **'Rest in the Lord'** and become like Him; and by faith this is the only way for us, too.

Keep looking to Jesus - *The author and finisher of our faith.*

Hebrews 12: 2 AV

FAITH

Firm trust in God, knowing my life's in His care,
Always looking to Jesus for answers to prayer.
Into His loving arms my soul I commit,
Trusting Him, for all things, as I walk in His Way -
His keeping power, like a fortress each day.



In keeping your eyes fixed on and looking to Jesus, as you *'Rest in the Lord,'* you will grow to become like Him. With His helping power in the Holy Spirit, you also will feed some of the Lord's lambs and sheep, bringing them into God's kingdom, even if you never know or live to see it.

In Peter's first letter he wrote:

Casting all your care on Him, for He cares for you.

1 Peter 5: 7

Peter ended his second letter with these words:

Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 Peter 3: 18

SHALOM

Peace be to you - as you *Rest in the Lord.*