



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Signs Along Believers' Highway Series, Lesson 50

**Lesson Title:** Jesus Appears to His Disciples by the Lake

**Take Home Point:** Even after mistakes, Jesus invites us to follow him.

#### Warm-Up:

The story is told of a boy named Pablo who grew up in Madrid. Pablo caused his parents much anguish as he rebelled against their attempts to guide him. Over time, the tension in the home became unbearable. Finally he ran away from home, vowing never to return. His parents were saddened, but remained hopeful that their son would turn from his rebellious ways. Years passed with no word from him, and in desperation, the father put an ad in the newspaper. It said only, "Pablo: All is forgiven. If you wish to come home, meet me at the Center Park at 8PM next Tuesday. Father." Over 100 men came at the appointed time, all answering the invitation from their father to be restored.

**Read:** John 21:1-25; Romans 5:8

#### Observation (What happened?):

How did Jesus reveal his presence to the disciples when he was on the shore?

According to John 21:19 and 22, what did Jesus want Peter to do to demonstrate his love?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What do you think Jesus meant when he told Peter three times to care for his sheep?

What do you think Peter meant when he said three times that he loved Jesus?

#### Insight:

For those of us who have heard this Bible account many times in our lives, it is perhaps easy to lose sight of just how remarkable it is. A few days ago as Jesus was led to his death sentence, Peter denied even knowing who Jesus was. So, why, when it was time to prepare his disciples for his departure, didn't Jesus find someone else who would be more reliable in the future to take care of those who followed? But not only did he want Peter to continue to follow him, Jesus wanted him to be a leader of other believers. And this approach to fallen people was not unique to Peter. Remember Moses, who murdered an Egyptian? Or what of Samson, who consistently went back to his sinful ways? Then there's Elijah, Jonah, David, and others throughout the Bible who also made mistakes, but God invited them to continue to serve him. God's ways are so different from ours, and this core aspect of Christianity is so different from other world religions. It is an encouraging and comforting lesson to us still today that even when we make mistakes, Jesus invites us to be restored and follow him.

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

Have you ever made a mistake you thought was so serious that God would not take you back? How did you overcome that fear?

Think of someone close to you who has made a mistake recently and demonstrate God's gracious love and forgiveness to them this week.