

# John 21:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

## Analysis

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**After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.** The phrase μετὰ ταῦτα (meta tauta, 'after these things') marks transition from the Jerusalem resurrection appearances to events in Galilee. John shifts from the uppercase 'I AM' revelations and commissioning scenes to a more intimate, pastoral encounter by the sea.

The verb ἐφανέρωσεν (ephanerōsen, 'showed/manifested himself') appears twice, emphasizing Jesus's initiative. The risen Christ actively reveals Himself; He is not discovered or summoned but appears at His sovereign will. This same verb occurs in John 1:31 (John the Baptist manifesting Jesus to Israel) and 21:14 (this being the third post-resurrection appearance). Jesus controls the timing and manner of His self-revelation.

The 'sea of Tiberias' is the Sea of Galilee, here using its Roman name (after Emperor Tiberius). This is where Jesus first called these fishermen (Luke 5:1-11), where He calmed storms and walked on water. Returning to Galilee after the resurrection fulfills Jesus's prediction: 'After I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32). Geography becomes theology—Jesus meets them in familiar territory, the place of their original calling, to recommission them after their failure.

## Historical Context

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The Sea of Galilee (also called Gennesaret, Chinnereth, or here Tiberias) was a freshwater lake roughly 13 miles long and 8 miles wide, 700 feet below sea level. It supported a thriving fishing industry in the first century, with multiple towns around its shores: Capernaum, Bethsaida, Magdala, Tiberias. Jesus spent much of His ministry in this region.

After Jesus's death and resurrection in Jerusalem, the disciples returned to Galilee, about 90 miles north—a 3-4 day journey. Matthew 28:10, 16 and Mark 16:7 record Jesus's instruction to meet Him there. They waited, and in the interim, reverted to their former occupation: fishing. This chapter records that reunion.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Why is it significant that Jesus returned to meet the disciples in Galilee, the place of their original calling?
2. What does Jesus's initiative in revealing Himself teach about His grace toward failed disciples?
3. How does Jesus's choice to appear by the Sea of Galilee connect His post-resurrection ministry to His earlier work?

## Interlinear Text

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Μετὰ ταῦτα ἐφανέρωσεν ἐαυτὸν πάλιν ὁ Ἰησοῦς  
After these things shewed himself again Jesus  
G3326 G5023 G5319 G1438 G3825 G3588 G2424

τοῖς μαθηταῖς ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης τῆς Τιβεριάδος·  
to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias  
G3588 G3101 G3588 G1909 G2281 G3588 G5085

ἐφανέρωσεν δὲ οὕτως  
shewed and on this wise  
G5319 G1161 G3779

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 6:1** (References Jesus): After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

**Matthew 26:32** (Parallel theme): But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

**John 6:23** (Parallel theme): (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)