

John 21:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

Analysis

That disciple whom Jesus loved (ο μαθητὴς ἐκεῖνος ὃν ἡγάπα ὁ Ἰησοῦς/ho mathētēs ekeinos hon ēgapa ho Iēsous)—John identifies himself through this phrase, emphasizing Christ's love rather than his own name. John recognizes first: **It is the Lord** (Ο κύριός ἐστιν/Ho kyrios estin). Love perceives what others miss; intimacy brings recognition. Yet Peter acts first—characteristic of their personalities throughout the Gospels.

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. The Greek ἐπενδύτης (ependytēs) refers to an outer garment. Peter, working stripped to his undergarment, hurriedly dresses before plunging into the water—a seemingly contradictory action showing both propriety (must be clothed in the Lord's presence) and impetuosity (can't wait for the boat). This mixture of reverence and eagerness characterizes Peter: he denied Christ three times yet loves Him enough to swim a hundred yards fully clothed to reach Him.

Historical Context

Fishermen typically worked in minimal clothing, especially at night. The 'naked' (γυμνός/gymnos) indicates wearing only a tunic without outer garment. Peter's

action—dressing to dive in—shows cultural values: appearing properly clothed before Jesus mattered more than convenience. The Sea of Galilee is about 13 miles long; they were close to shore (200 cubits = roughly 100 yards).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does John's recognition through love versus Peter's response through action illustrate different but complementary expressions of devotion to Christ?
2. What does Peter's concern to be properly clothed in Christ's presence teach about reverence, even in moments of enthusiastic reunion?
3. How do you balance contemplative recognition of Christ (like John) with active response to His presence (like Peter) in your spiritual life?

Interlinear Text

λέγει οὗν ὁ μαθητὴς ἐκεῖνος ὃν ἡγάπα ὁ Ἰησοῦς
saith Now G3588 disciple that whom loved G3588 G2424
G3004 G3767 G3101 G1565 G3739 G25 G2424

τῷ Πέτρος Ὁ κύριός ἐστιν Σίμων οὗν Πέτρος
G3588 Peter G3588 the Lord It is when Simon Now Peter
G4074 G2962 G2076 G4613 G3767 G4074

ἀκούσας ὅτι ὁ κύριός ἐστιν τὸν ἐπενδύτην
heard that G3588 the Lord It is G3588 his fisher's coat
G191 G3754 G2962 G2076 G1903

διεζώσατο ἦν γὰρ γυμνός καὶ ἔβαλεν ἔαυτὸν
he girt he was unto him (for naked and did cast himself
G1241 G2258 G1063 G1131 G2532 G906 G1438

εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν
into G3588 the sea G2281

Additional Cross-References

John 13:23 (Love): Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 19:26 (Love): When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

John 20:2 (Love): Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.