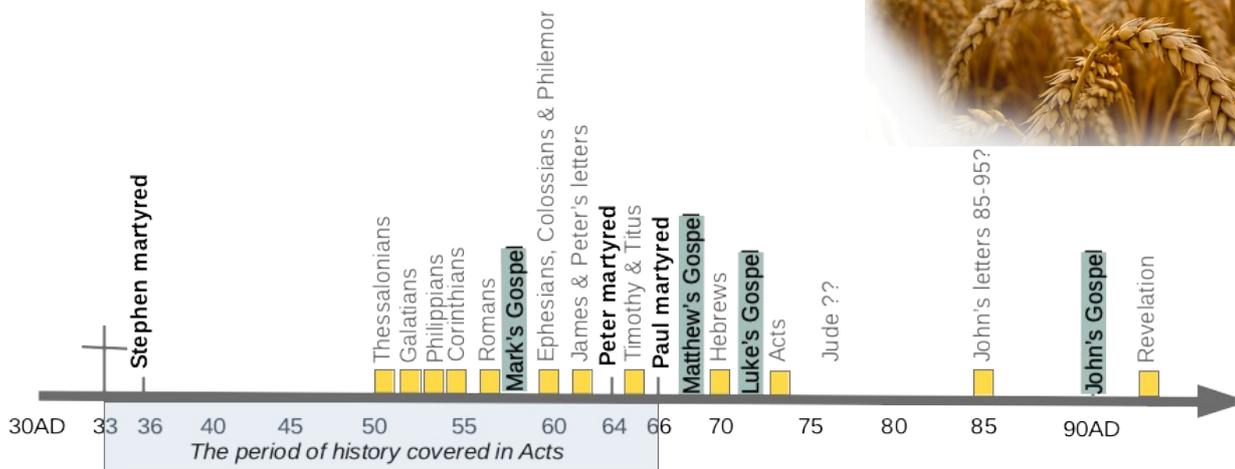
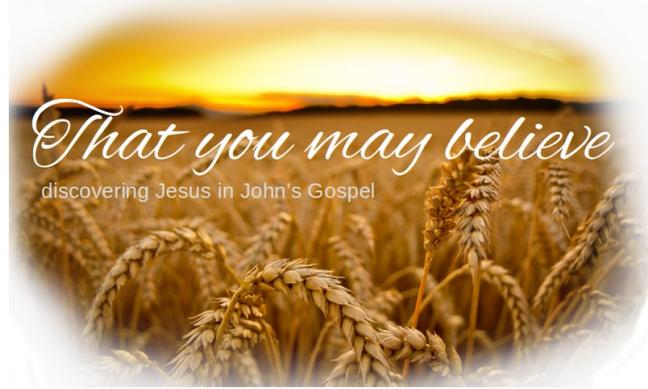


Week 9: What about you?



I love a timeline. You can see where everything fits and sometimes it gives us a new perspective on what we are reading. You can see that John wrote his account of Jesus' life many years after Peter and Paul had been put to death. So, the question arises, why did John close his gospel with a story about Jesus re-instating Peter? Did it really matter, nearly 30 years later, that people knew Peter was the leader? Or was something else being said?

Read John 21:15-23

1. What do you know about the events that have led up to this point?
2. How do you think Peter felt when Jesus took him to one side?
3. Have there been times when you have felt like you let Jesus down, how did you feel?
4. What does Jesus do each time that Peter answers his question?
5. If you put yourself in Peter's shoes, what would you say?

Deeper In

John uses two different Greek words to mean 'love', ἀγαπᾶς (agapas) and φιλέω (phil eo). Agape is selfless love, unconditional love. Phileo brotherly love. When Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" in verses 15 and 16 Jesus is asking "Do you love me unconditionally?" Peter replies, "Yes with brotherly love."

- What is there to suggest that there is a problem with the quality of Peter's love?
- Do you think Peter is capable of loving Jesus unconditionally? Are you?
- Is Jesus capable of loving Peter unconditionally? And can he love you unconditionally?

I think Peter loved Jesus as much as he could and that was enough for Jesus. The third time Jesus asked Peter, John chose the word phileo. This was John's comment on how Jesus loves Peter (and us), because this conversation probably happened in Aramaic, not in Greek.

So, why did John put this story in? Because if Peter, who was their leader, had to face up to his past and confess his love for Jesus, so do we all.

This study might bring up some difficult memories of times when you feel you have failed in your walk with Jesus.

- Put yourself in the place Peter was in.
- This is between you and Jesus only.
- Remember, that Jesus' default position is to love you unconditionally.