

**A New Beginning!**  
**John 21:1-14**

There are times in all our lives when we need a new beginning or to start over again and it usually happens after we have failed. *Failure is more important than success!* In fact, unless we fail we will never learn the most important lessons of daily life! For example, if we succeed all the time or if success comes too easily we can never learn how to *cope with failure*, nor can we learn to *appreciate the value & joy of success!* Failure for the Christian is the best way to learn to rely upon & trust in God's strength & wisdom.

**Failure ! Joh.21: 1-5**

*NIV John 21:1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered.*

Peter and the other apostles could be excused for returning to their old lives, had they not been witnesses to Christ's resurrection. Peter was severing his connection with the Lord as far as preaching the word (gospel) was concerned and taking up his old job as a fisherman. He thought he was going back to something he knew and had succeeded in, but as they fished all night, they caught nothing. *He failed again!*

**A New Challenge! Joh.21: 6-14**

*NIV John 21:6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.*

Jesus showed great compassion & was extremely patient with Peter, calling him back and giving him the opportunity to start again. So to, we must never allow failure to cause us to quit, but to trust God firmly and absolutely. We must believe in His promises!

*NIV Hebrews 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" **Only in Christ can we all have a new beginning. Do you believe that? (Gal.3: 6)p***