

## Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

### Week 6 – Thursday

John 21:3-12 – Footnotes 3<sup>1</sup>, 3<sup>2</sup>, 5<sup>2</sup>, 6<sup>1</sup>

In John 21 the disciples went fishing. Peter says, “I am going fishing.” In the chapter before the Lord breathed on them. Now they have the Spirit within, and Peter gets bored or he doesn’t know where the next meal will come from. I don’t know what the situation was but anyway, he goes fishing. They catch nothing after fishing all night, and then what happens? Jesus was on the shore in the morning but they don’t recognize Him. Again, this is the first principle of shepherding. He said, “Little children, you don’t have anything to eat, do you?” Since they were in the water, maybe He called out loudly. They were in the boat. Now picture this; suppose you were one of the disciples in the boat. They may have turned and said, “Who is this guy?” Don’t you think that someone asked that? I am pretty sure someone asked, “Who is this guy and why doesn’t he mind his own business?” Jesus then told them, “Why don’t you put your net on the other side of the boat?” These were experienced fishermen; I don’t believe their boat was that wide. What difference would it make which side they were fishing on. I am pretty sure that they said, “Just do it; maybe he will go away.” So they put it on the other side and caught 153 large fish. Why 153? That is a good point too but for another day. As soon as they hauled in the fish, John said, “It is the Lord.” Then Peter put on something because he was naked and jumped into the water. When they get to the shore, Jesus says, “Come and have breakfast.” This was His shepherding. There was a fire there. I think that the fire was not only for cooking but also for Peter. He had been in the water and may have been a little cold so could warm himself up a little. Do you see the shepherding here? I think that these two chapters show the best examples of shepherding. In 1 Peter 5 Peter told the elders, “Don’t lord it over the saints, over the flock, but shepherd according to God.” How can you shepherd according to God? Look at these two chapters. That is how to shepherd; this is how we reach people’s hearts.

I want to give you another word—*relevant*. We have many deep truths that we are blessed with. We know a lot about God’s purpose, but saints, when we minister to people, especially the young people, we have to make all the truths relevant to where they are. We need to apply them. There is another writing that I would like to recommend related to the Summer School of Truth material. It is just a little book, four messages, called *Teachers’ Training*. Don’t get thrown off saying, “I am not one of the teachers; I don’t serve the young people.” The fellowship in this book will help all of us. Four short messages in which Brother Lee emphasizes the matter of reaching the young people with the word of God. He uses two phrases: We need to convert doctrine to experience and we need to leave the young people with an experiential impression, an impression that the truth we are teaching is very practical no matter how high it is, and it applies to where they are.