

John 21:7

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

"The disciple whom Jesus loved" this is referring to John, who wrote the book of John. But notice John did not say "The disciple who loved Jesus." Why not? Well, think about what's going on here in today's devotional verse. Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead three days later, and some time after that:

† **John 21:2-3** *Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.*

So we have Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James and his brother John along with two other disciples decide to go fishing one day. Why, because it's what they did for a living, they were fishermen. And they go fishing all night and caught nothing. Then Jesus comes along and:

† **John 21:4-6** *But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "**Children, have you any food?**" They answered Him, "No." And He said to them, "**Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.**" So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.*

Which leads up to today's devotional verse. Now notice what Peter did: *"he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea."* Now remember, Peter was the one who denied, not once, but three times in one day that he knew who Jesus was, while Jesus was on trial and about to be crucified.

At this point in the story, Jesus has not spoken to Peter about it yet (He does further on in the chapter) and Peter is so excited to hear that it's Jesus he jumps into the water, not to drown himself because he is afraid, but because he knew, just like John did, that Jesus loved him. And because he knew this he could jump into the water, forgetting about all the fish they just caught, leaving all his buddies behind to tend to the work of hauling in the fish to the shore, and made a beeline swim straight to Jesus.

Now, John knew that Peter denied Jesus. It doesn't say when Peter told him about it, but I would think it was probably that Saturday after Jesus was crucified and they were all sitting around, scared to death that they would come after them too, and were telling their stories of what they remembered about Jesus. Like we do now when someone that we love dies and we tell stories about the one who died.

So as John was writing this gospel, he may have remembered this account and knew that we can try to brag on how much we love the Lord. Yet how many times have we denied Him, or not spoke about Jesus when we knew we should have? Sure, we do love the Lord, but honestly, we can never boast in our love for the Lord, because we are human and we will fail the Lord, but He will NEVER fail us or stop loving us. That is what our boast should be.

So yeah, let's boast in the Lord, and when we tell others about Jesus, we can say that, "I'm the child of God whom Jesus loves!"

† **Romans 8:38-39** *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*