



THE PATIENCE OF JESUS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

Slide 1

For months the disciples, **Slide 2** Matthew, John, Peter, Thomas, and the others, **Slide 3** spent great times with Jesus. You remember **Slide 4** all the miracles they saw. **Slide 5** But the recent events have shaken them up a lot. The mood has changed, some **Slide 6** are happy, others **Slide 7** rather sad. One of them **Slide 8** can't believe what he's told. **Slide 9** Peter is unhappy, **Slide 10** he thinks about what he did, and he is ashamed.

But, I won't tell you more. Listen carefully and you can answer my question: **Slide 11** What does Jesus do? You will find this account in **Slide 12** the Gospel of John at the beginning of chapter 21.

Slide 13 WHAT DOES JESUS DO?

Slide 14 When Jesus appeared to the disciples on Easter Sunday evening, **Slide 15** there was one absent.

So the others **Slide 16** told him what had happened.

Slide 17 - Thomas! We have seen the Lord! He is risen!

Slide 18 - Ah, that's not possible! Thomas answers. Me, unless I see with my own eyes the nail **Slide 19** marks in his hands, and **Slide 20** stick my finger there and unless I put my hand in His side, **Slide 21** I won't believe.

Slide 22 Eight days later, **Slide 23** they are reunited again in the same locked room. Suddenly, **Slide 24** Jesus is there, standing among them. He speaks to a particular disciple.

Slide 25 - Thomas! Look at my hands! **Slide 26** Put your finger here in the nail mark! **Slide 27** Stretch also your hand and put it in my side. You see, it's me! So, Thomas, stop doubting and believe that I am alive.

Slide 28 - You are my Lord and my God! Thomas cries, bowing.

Slide 29 - Thomas, you believe because you saw me, Jesus says to him, but let me tell you, that all those who will believe in me, without having ever seen me, those will be really happy.

Slide 30 A little later, they return to **Slide 31** Galilee. Some of them meet on the bank of the lake of Tiberias.

Slide 32 - Tonight I'm going fishing, says Peter.

Slide 33 - We're coming with you, say the others.

Slide 34 They leave for a whole night. **Slide 35** They're going to throw the nets again and again. It's a very tiring job. The next morning, exhausted and discouraged, they say to each other:

Slide 36 - Well! All that for nothing! We worked all night and **Slide 37** took nothing. It's time to come back. Now that the sun is rising, it's over.

They see a man there, standing on the shore.

Slide 38 - Well, friends! He tells them. Have you caught any fish?

Slide 39 - No! Nothing at all!

Slide 40 - Well throw the net on the right side of the boat. **Slide 41** You will have a good fishing!

A good fishing! It's hard to believe! But they obey and lo and **Slide 42** behold the net sinks in and begins to swarm with fish.

Slide 43 - But it's amazing! They say, it's so full we can't get it on board!

Slide 44 John remembers. They have already experienced a similar miracle. It was the day when Jesus said to Peter: "*You will be a fisher of men!*"

He walks up to Peter and says to him:

Slide 45 - It's the Lord!

Slide 46 Peter immediately jumps overboard and starts swimming. **Slide 47** The others follow him more slowly with the boat, pulling the net full of fish. **Slide 48** The stranger has prepared a fire on which **Slide 49** some fish is already grilling. This delicious scent awakens the appetite of the fishermen:

Slide 50 - Bring me some more fish! He tells them.

Slide 51 They pull the heavy net onto the shore. There are so many fish that it should tear but no, the net is holding on.

Slide 52 - Let's see how many there are! They say.

They begin to count **Slide 53** the shiny, dripping fish that squirm on the planks of the boat.

Slide 54 - 10, 15, 32, 54, 90, 100, 125! And here is the last! **Slide 55** 153! 153 big fish!

Slide 56 - Come on, come and eat now! The man tells them. It's ready!

Slide 57 He gives them the bread and the fish that He has baked for them. Nobody asks him: "*But who are you?*". They all recognized Him. This is the third time that Jesus has shown

Himself to them since He rose from the dead. How happy they are to share this food in the calm and fresh morning air in the presence of the Lord! It's an unforgettable moment!

Slide 58 When the meal is over, Jesus addresses Peter:

Slide 59 - Do you love me more than the others? He asks him.

Slide 60 - Yes, Lord! Peter answers, troubled. You know I love you.

Slide 61 - You'll take care of my lambs.

Slide 62 - Peter, do you love me? Jesus asks again.

Slide 63 - Yes, Lord! You know I love you.

Slide 64 - You will be the shepherd of my sheep.

And for the third time, Jesus asks him:

Slide 65 - Peter, do you love me?

Slide 66 Peter becomes very sad because it is the third time that Jesus has asked him the same question. He is ashamed. Indeed, he has never forgotten **Slide 67** that terrible night when he declared on three occasions not to know the Lord. He was a coward, three times he denied knowing him after **Slide 68** he saying so proudly that he loved Him more than everyone else and that he was ready to die for him. Pierre is miserable. He sincerely regrets having betrayed the One he loves with all his heart.

Slide 69 - Lord! He answers humbly. You know everything; I have nothing to hide from you.

Slide 70 You know that I Love you.

Slide 71 - So, far, Jesus says to him, you did what you wanted, you went where you wanted but I know that now you are ready to obey and serve me. I have a mission for you.

Slide 72 You will be a fisherman of men. You will tell them that they must repent and believe that I am dead and resurrected so that they may be forgiven and like **Slide 73** a faithful shepherd, you will take care of those who want to follow me.

Slide 74 Peter is happy and at peace, he knows that Jesus has forgiven him and that He is offering him another life. **Slide 75** He will serve his Lord with strength and courage all his life. He's not the same man anymore.

Slide 76 **1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!**

Slide 77 What is Jesus doing? **Slide 78** I'm not sure you remember everything, then, here is what I propose to you. **Slide 79** Either answer right away **Slide 80** or listen the story a second time **Slide 81** or you can reread it **Slide 82** and then write what Jesus does as you go. You

can also do it orally. And if there are several of you, **Slide 83** each can respond in turn. Before ending, I leave on your heart the question that Jesus asked Peter: **Slide 84** Do you love me? It's up to you to answer it.

Slide 85 **4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!**

In the conversation with your children, clearly show **Slide 86** the patience and love of Jesus for his disciples despite their doubts, their clumsiness, their fears of others, of their shame. Children also experience moments of doubt. They can be discouraged, feel unworthy of the Lord, yet loving Him and wanting to follow Him but perhaps lacking courage in front of their comrades. **Slide 87** Jesus' attitude towards Thomas and towards Peter constitutes a deep encouragement for them as for us.

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