

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 12 July: Church service.
Malcolm speaking on Acts 4.32-37
continuing the series on one another
Christianity.



Sunday 19 July: Church service. Danny speaking

Sunday 26 July: Church service. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 02 Aug: Church service.

Sunday 09 Aug: Church service.

Other Events

Friday 24th to 27th July: ICCM Preteen Camp

Saturday 25th to 31st July: ICCM Teen Camp

Saturday 20 to 24 August: Thames Valley Teen Camp

Friday 11th - 13 September: UK & Ireland Young
Professionals Retreat in Chesham. Registration: <https://iccmisions.churchsuite.com/events/gtrbbmni>

Sept 30th - Oct 04th: Spirituality Retreat. <https://shop.thewayministry.global/2026-csr/home>

Friday 30th October to Sunday 01st November:
Autumn Student Retreat for the UK & Ireland.

Thursday 12-15th November: UK, Ireland and
Nordics leadership retreat.

Lesson from a fish breakfast

Have you ever eaten fish for breakfast? I've had kippers before, but the problem is they tend to leave you smelling like them for the rest of the day. Still, this morning we're looking at a different kind of fish breakfast altogether—one that was healing, spiritually fragrant, and life changing.

This article is based on the text we are using for our sermon today (John 21). It also connects with my two previous sermons, where we looked at what it means to live in "one another"

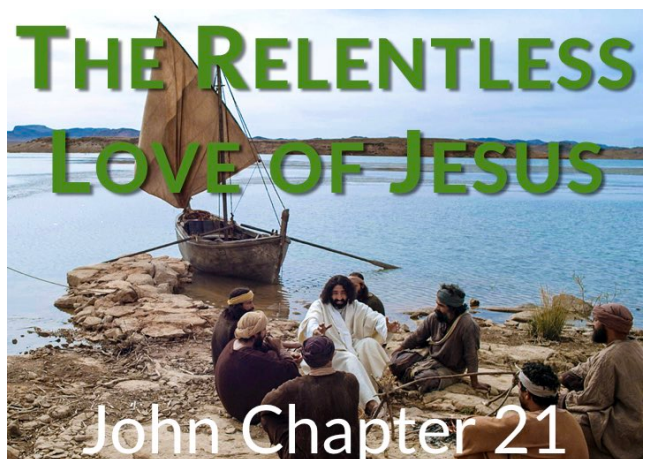
relationships and what it looks like to refresh one another in everyday life. Today's passage brings those themes together in a personal and practical way, showing how restoration actually happens between people.

Simples

In "one another" Christianity, we may be tempted to look for complicated ways to love and support each other. But one of the clearest pictures of relational healing is found in a simple setting - breakfast. Here, Jesus meets Peter on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

"When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread." (John 21:9)

In this scene, Jesus shows what care for one another really looks like. He doesn't avoid the painful truth of Peter's denial, and he doesn't leave space for distance to harden between them. Instead, he moves toward Peter. He approaches him with patience and gentleness, helping him move from shame to renewed hope.



What would change in our relationships if we took Jesus' beachside breakfast with Peter as our model—moving toward each other, speaking truth with grace, and choosing to build one another up with Christ at the centre?

Context

Have you noticed the setting? Jesus could have approached Peter earlier, or He could have addressed the situation without the breakfast on the shore. But He doesn't rush it, and He doesn't separate the conversation from the setting. He prepares a meal, meets Peter in a familiar place, and chooses a calm, shared moment to speak. The conversation happens around a fire, with food, after a night of fishing. It reminds us that restoration is not just about what is said, but when and where it is said. Jesus shows us that wise, healing relationships pay attention to timing, tone, and environment as much as truth itself.

Active

This encounter shows that "one another" Christianity is active. It calls for us to gently and respectfully step into each other's lives with wisdom and care:

- Take the initiative: Like Jesus, we don't wait indefinitely when relationships are strained. We approach others with humility. As Philippians 2:4 puts it, we look "not only to [our] own interests, but also to the interests of others."
- Speak with grace and truth: Hard conversations are sometimes necessary, but they should always aim at restoration, not winning or condemning. We are called to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15) and to be "kind and compassionate... forgiving each other" (Ephesians 4:32).
- Build one another up: Our words should help others remember who they are in Christ and what they're called to be. "Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11) is not just advice—it's vital for everyday conversations.

Jesus

We don't do this on our own. Christ is present in the way we relate to each other, guiding us toward patience, clarity, and love. As we "bear with one another" (Colossians 3:13), our relationships begin to reflect the heart of the gospel in practical, visible ways.

Reflection Questions

1. Where might you need to take the first step toward reconciliation or encouragement instead of waiting for the other person?
2. What would it look like to create a calmer, safer space for someone to speak honestly without feeling judged?
3. How can you be more intentional this week about strengthening someone else's sense of worth and calling in Christ?

Your brother, Malcolm

A link to the one another passages:

<https://www.malcolmcox.org/the-one-another-commands~59/>



Articles

If anyone would like to contribute to the Watford Word please let me know. Articles about scripture, poetry, personal devotional reflections, good news, prayer requests, testimonials and more are all welcome.

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

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