

## THE DISCIPLES AFTER THE RESURRECTION:

John 21:1-14

We are in the series AFTER THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS. Two weeks ago, we looked at Mary and the women who went to the tomb only to discover that Jesus was not in it, He is alive. He made Himself known to Mary and told her to tell the others that He was on His way to Galilee, there they could meet Him. They did not believe her report. Later that day, which was the first day of the week, three days after Jesus was crucified, He appeared unto them while they were hiding in a room, with the doors closed. Thomas one of His disciples was not with the rest when Jesus entered the room. He pronounced His peace on them and told them that He was sending them the same way the Father sent Him. When Thomas joined them, they told him all that happened, but he did not believe. He said that the only way for him to believe, he would have to put his finger in His hand where the nail was driven and place his hand in Jesus' side where He was pierced with the sword.

Eight days later He appeared to them the second time while they were in a closed room, again He pronounced His peace on them. Then He invited them to put their finger in His hand where the nail was driven and their hand into His side where the He was pierced with the sword. At that point Thomas proclaimed that He was his Lord and God. Jesus told Thomas that he had to see before he would believe but those who believe without seeing are blessed. Over the two weeks we studied from John 20:11-31. This week we will study John 21:1-14

JESUS MET SOME OF HIS DISCIPLES AT THE SEA OF TIBERIAS:

John 21:1-14; Peter told the disciples that he was going to fish and six of them joined him on that fishing trip. They fished all night and caught nothing. They were with Jesus for three years. They followed Him faithfully for three years and expected that He would free them from their oppressors, the of Romans. That did not happen, instead He was crucified by their oppressors. He rose on the third day as He said, but some doubted. He was not there to lead them from day to day. Some decided to join Peter who was returning to his business of fishing. That night they caught nothing.

When Jesus called Peter, He told him that if he followed Him, He would make him to become fishers of men. Matthew 4:19. Jesus did not take Peter out of the fishing business, He only wanted Peter to change the commodity for which he would fish.

Although Peter spent three years with Jesus, he was not changed. The first opportunity he had; he went back where he left off. Not only did he go but six others joined him.

None remembered the order that Jesus had just given them that He was sending them the same way the Father had sent Him. The Father sent Jesus “to preach good tidings unto the meek, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of prison to those who are bound” (Isaiah 61:1b)

Are we like Peter and the six who joined him by going back to what we were accustomed to do, staying with what we know, playing it safe and staying in familiar territory instead of venturing out on the new assignment from God? They were given an assignment to go in Jesus’ authority and power to do what He came to do. His assignment on earth in His physical form was completed. He assigned the disciples to be His representatives, to continue the work He started. Instead of going to the land where they would interact with people, they went to the sea, far away from people. That night they caught nothing. That must have been an expedition filled with disappointment and discouragement. It was also a lesson to them to teach them that they were

not on their own, they belonged to God. Jesus had just paid the price for their ransom; He gave His life to set them free. They should be about His kingdom not worldly business. Their night's work brought nothing, but the morning brought joy.

In the morning when they were near land, Jesus met them, He stood on the shore where they could see Him. He went to meet them, He was standing on the sea Shore, He did not go into the water where they were. They had to get out of the water to get to where He was standing. This tells me that Jesus is compassionate, He is concerned with everything that concerns me. He does not give up on me when I take off on my own doing the things, I want to do instead of what He told me to do. He watches as I struggle unsuccessfully and is there just for me get my eyes on Him, and He waits for me to come to Him. He knew that they did not catch any fish, yet He asked them if they had any meat. They simply replied no. He was very gentle with them showing His love, He called them children.

He told them to cast their net on the right side of the ship and they would find fish. When they obeyed, they were able to catch one hundred and fifty-three fish. It was such a large catch that they could not pull the net ashore by themselves, the men in the other boat had to help them with the net. In spite of the abundance of fish, their net was not broken, none was lost. When we go on our own, we often toil unsuccessfully because we work on the wrong side. Jesus told them to cast their net on the right side of the ship and catch the fish that were there. Notice they did not have to change their course or even go further out in the deep. The fish were right where they were but on the opposite side of where they were fishing. When Jesus is involved in our ventures, He will always guide us and instruct us towards success.

When they got to the shore with the fish, Jesus invited them to come to His table and partake of the meal He had prepared. He knew that they labored all night so He had fish and bread already

prepared so they could join Him in the breaking of bread. He also told them to take some of the fish they caught and roast them on the fire that He used to cook the fish He had prepared. The fire provided more than a means by which they cooked the fish, it also provided warmth and comfort. They were at sea all night; they were wet by pulling the net out of the water. They were able to warm themselves and dry their clothes by the fire while they were refreshed with the fish and bread that Jesus had prepared.

OBSERVATIONS: (1) Jesus showed Himself to the disciples on a workday, not on the Lord's Day, the first day of the week as He did previously (2) He appeared to some of the disciples while they were fishing. (3) Christ has many ways of making Himself known to His followers; sometimes by His Spirit He visits them on their jobs, as he did with the seven disciples who were fishing. (4) When He told them to cast their net on the right side, they did not recognize Him to be Jesus their Lord. (5) He showed Himself to them while they were together that they would be joint witnesses of the same facts. (6) Thomas was mentioned as one who went with Peter, in fact, he was mentioned first after Peter, showing he was then staying close to Peter and the rest. (7) When the person who was on the seashore told them to cast the net on the right side, John recognized that He was Jesus and he told Peter "It is the Lord" (8) Peter, who was dressed for fishing, out of respect for his Lord, put on his best attire to meet Him. (9) Peter could not wait for the rest to get to Jesus, he went into the water, while the others remained in the boat to bring the net with the fish to the shore. (10) He asked them if they had any meat. The reply has no. (11) He is concerned with everything that concerns us. (12) He will make himself known to us when we are at our lowest point. The disciples fished all night and caught nothing, when it was near the break of day, Jesus appeared on the shore. (13) When they took the net with the fish to the shore, Jesus told them to cook some of the fish they caught on the fire that He had prepared. The men

fished all night, they had to pull the net with the fish out of the water. They were tired, wet and hungry. Jesus had a fire with fish He had prepared, and He also had bread. They could warm themselves by the fire, dry their wet clothes and eat by the fire. He met all their needs. In addition, their fishing expedition was a great success. Jesus told them to bring some of what they caught, showing that they should enjoy the fruit of their labor.

So much more is in this passage, that we will revisit it next week and look at lessons to be learned.