

John 21:1-14: JESUS MET SOME OF HIS DISCIPLES AT THE SEA OF TIBERIAS.

PART TWO

Last week we studied this passage. This week we will be taking a closer look to see lessons we may learn from it. Jesus had just told the disciples that He was sending them as the Father sent Him. After saying that to them He left them. Peter one of His disciples David he was going fishing. He was a fisherman by profession prior to being called by Jesus to be one of His disciples. Six of the other disciples decided to join Peter on that fishing expedition. They went and caught nothing all night.

1. Throughout the gospel very little is said about Nathaniel. In this passage he is mentioned after Thomas as one of those who went fishing with Peter. It is important to note that one can be faithful and loyal even though one is not on the frontline. There are many who serve faithfully, who are never mentioned in the celebrations and recognition ceremonies, here; however, God remembers them. He was among those to whom Jesus made Himself known by the seashore. He was one of those who were eyewitness of that event and could later testify about it.

2. The disciples fished all night and caught nothing. Even good hard work can come short of the desired outcomes. The miraculous catch of fish in the morning would be indelibly written in their minds and would serve as reference in the future, when they worked and did not see immediately, the positive results of their labor. They would not quit at what looks like failure, but it would remind them that they caught the fish at the command of the One who told them to cast the net on the right side of the ship and catch the fish. They would learn to get His directions before venturing on any expedition, even when it is something with which they are very familiar. The gifts and callings of God are without repentance. (Romans 11:29) The disciples were called; they were told by Jesus that He was sending them as the Father sent Him. Then they went

fishing. However, it was a temporary diversion. Those who have been call by God may try to disguise by allowing familiar occupations to keep them from walking in their purposes. God is patient, He will wait and watch as we struggle without success. Even then, He does not abandon us. He shows up when we realize that our labor was without success. He is by the shore waiting, and He will call to us. Jesus called to them when they were heading to the shore. He said children, do you have any meat. These were grown men that He called children. It could mean that they were His Spiritual Children, just as how Paul referred to Timothy and Titus as his sons.

3. The disciples did not recognize Jesus when He was on the seashore. He asked if they Had any meat. They answered no. He told them to cast their net on the right side of the ship and catch the fish. They obeyed. God wants to use us right where we are with what we have. Too often we miss our opportunities and blessings because we believe that in order for us to be significant, we need to find new locations, when God is saying stay right where you are and be significant, there is more than you can manage right where you are located. I am your source and the supplier of your every need. Stay where you are, only cast your net on the right side. I have aligned the great multitude of fish for your net. The catch is more than enough for you. They caught a large amount of fish right where they were with the same net they used before when they caught nothing. The only difference was the direction. Their location was the same. If they were stuck in tradition and not willing to change or accept the suggestion to change their approach and acted on it, they would not have had a successful fishing experience. When their skills failed them, Jesus showed up on the seashore and called them children. He was there at the point of their greatest need. They were empty, they did not catch any fish. He is there for us when all our human efforts fail.

4. When the person on the seashore told them to cast the net on the right side, John realized that

the person who spoke to them was Jesus; He told Peter in his excitement that “It is the Lord”. In our groups or churches some have the gift of discernment, some are quick learners, some are able to solve problems quicker than others. We are all placed there in order for the body to function as a healthy body. John discerned it was the Lord, and all benefited by him using his gift. As soon as Peter heard that it was the Lord standing on the seashore, he put on his best attire, abandoned the ship with the other disciples and jumped in the water to be the first to get to Jesus where He was waiting by the fire. At that moment, the only thing that mattered to Peter was to be close to Jesus. He was the one who decided he was going fishing, and the rest said they would go with him. Yet, when he heard that it was Jesus, the only thing that mattered was to be with Jesus, he left all to be with Jesus. Peter showed zeal for Christ, he left everyone in the boat, with the fish and headed in the water towards Christ. That was not the first time Peter left the rest in ship and went in the water to get to Jesus. In Matthew chapter fourteen verses twenty-two to thirty-three; Jesus told the disciples to get in the ship and go on the other side of the sea. While they were in the middle of the sea, they encountered a violent storm. During the night while the storm was raging, Jesus went into the sea towards them walking on the water. When they saw Him, they were afraid. He said to them, “Be not afraid, it is I” Peter said, Lord, if it is you tell me to come. Jesus said Come, Peter left the rest in the boat and went to Jesus walking on the water. He always wanted to be with Jesus.

5. The other disciples in the boat with the fish were no less faithful or devoted to Jesus than Peter. Like Mary who sat at Jesus’s feet while Martha took care of the entertainment, Peter wanted to be at the feet of Jesus. (Luke 10:38-42) It shows that all followers of Jesus Christ are needed in the kingdom. John used his gift of knowledge, Peter had to be the one in front and the others continued working to get the ship and fish to the seashore. If all were like Peter, they

would not have the fish that were in the net. In the same way those who serve while remaining in their secular jobs are not less important than those who serve in full time ministries. All contribute to the success of the ministry. They brought the fish to shore where they would have food and they could sell some of it to provide financial support for their ministry. Some believers serve as the kingdom's eyes, some its ear, some its hands, others its feet while others are its mouth; all serve to make the body effective for the work of the kingdom.

6. The men were tired and weary; when they got to land, they saw a fire with fish and bread that Jesus had prepared. He said to those who are tired and weary to come to Him and He will give them rest. (Matt.11:28-30) Jesus then invited them to come and dine with Him. He has a table waiting for all His followers to come and dine with Him. He calls it the marriage supper of the Lamb. (Revelation 19:6-9) He then told them to bring some of the fish they caught and roast them on the fire. Peter went and helped them pull the net with the fish to shore. Here we see that the workman is worthy to enjoy the labor of his hands. The fire provided comfort. The amount of fish they caught, was more than they could handle, the men from the other boat had to help them pull the net with the fish to the shore. Jesus supplied all their needs, in fact He supplied in abundance, they could not handle the catch all by themselves, they had to get help to reap the harvest.

7. They sat together and ate together, Peter who jumped in the water and the rest who worked hard to get the ship and fish to the seashore sat at the same time at the same table. At His table all are equal. Those who started out early in life to serve Jesus and those who toil to bring in the harvest by perseverance will sit together at the table Jesus has prepared for His faithful followers. Jesus served them. He took the fish and bread and gave them to the disciples. That act must have reminded them of the last supper He had with them, when He washed their feet. He ate with

them the second time, showing them that He has a real body. That incident was another proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They bore witness of meeting Him on the seashore; how at His command they cast their net on the right side of the ship, and caught one hundred and fifty-three fish, after they fished all night and caught nothing. Finally, they ate fish and bread with Him on the seashore of the sea of TIBERIAS.