

I Go a Fishing

John 21:1-14

Epilogue

These men were fishermen. Mark 1:17-18 .

John 21:1

Last thing between Jesus and disciples-- Jesus' appearance before them all to Thomas.

Feast of unleavened bread over

Jesus told them meet in Galilee.

Showed Himself again: visible to disciples. Physically appeared **and on this wise showed he himself**. This is how it happened.

John 21:2

two other of his disciples. Nathanael? Phillip? Andrew?

Phillips...*perhaps so that you and I can take our seats in the boat!*

John 21:3

Peter's past--forsook all to follow Jesus.

Now, **I go a fishing.**

They went forth...

Hughes: *Evening was the best time... only one problem—they did not catch anything!*

Times of ministry

Jn 15:5 *without me ye can do nothing.*

Spiritual work on our own.

Why Peter back to fishing?

Past spiritual failure.

Finances.

Carnal

Why Jesus not allow fish to come hear his nets?

Possibly to make obvious to Peter that God not leading him back into secular work.

John 21:4

Not recognize man on shore.

- Unbelief.
- Prevented (Lk 24:16)
- Appearance of man
- Mist/fog/morning haze

John 21:5 Children, have ye any meat?

Any fish?

Children: Lads.

Word used for a child.

Law--son or daughter.

Age

Servant.

Term of endearment.

F.F.Bruce: *boys*

A question appeals to conscience.

They answered him, No.

Admitted failure.

Failure is most creative phenomenon of life

No man ever made progress who didn't fail at first.

Hughes: *Failure demands that we assess our past methods to see what we have done right or wrong.*

These men's failure in fishing put an accent on goodness of God to provide for needs.

Hend: *...in His loving providence their complete failure must serve the purpose of bringing into sharp relief the greatness of the gift which He was going to provide.*

Muggeridge: *Christianity, from Golgotha onwards, has been the sanctification of failure.*

Hughes: *Our failures bring us face to face with the weaknesses and inadequacies that lie within, so that God's strength can be made perfect in our weakness....*

We are simply clay pots. 2 Corinthians 4:7

David--1 Sam 22:1-2. Cave of Adullah.

Swindoll: *...When the sovereign God brings us to nothing, it is to reroute our lives, not to end them.*

1. Transparent.

2. Humble

3. Teachable

John 21:6

Hughes: *The creative processes of the Holy Spirit, God's power in our lives, become fully operable when we admit exactly where we are, owning our successes and our failures.*

Jesus knew

Where fish were.

Men at end of resources.

Could now bless them

They would recognize it not from own labors.

Success they experienced not keep them from pursuing full time ministry.

They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

Jesus knew

Fish.

Shoal

Proper timing...

Proper place to cast net.

What take to open eyes of understanding.

They needed to see evidence of His power.

John 21:7

Perceptive John!

Peter usually first to act.

John first to understand.

Great thing to combine men of action with men of vision.

Command: ***Cast the net***

Promise: ***and ye shall find.***

Response: ***They cast therefore***

Results: ***...not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.***

Failure: no results

Transparency: ... any meat? No!

Command: Cast net on right side.

Teachable spirit & Obedience: ***They cast therefore***

Results: ...multitude of fishes

Response: It is the Lord.

Hughes: *In the darkness, It is the Lord!*

In our failures, It is the Lord!

When our nets are full, It is the Lord!

In all of life, It is the Lord! teaching us that we must rest and depend on him.

Peter's response: ***...girt his fisher's coat unto him, ...***

Gumnos—undergarment

Puts on fisher's coat...jumps into the water. Luke 5:8

John 21:8

100 yards off shore.

Men step out of boat and begin to drag net towards shoreline.

No way get all these fish into little boat.

John 21:9-10

Jesus wanted them to see evidence of His power on their lives.

John 21:11

Significance of net not breaking--With Christ in midst directing work, resources never overstrained.

Led and sustained by Christ's strength , net never tear.

Some place significance on number 153.

- total number of kind of fish in existence at that time—symbolizing universal appeal of gospel.
- Sum of numbers from 1 to 17. Sum of 10, the number of the commandments and hence of the Law, 7 representing sevenfold gifts of Spirit.
- 153 dots can be arranged in an equilateral triangle with 17 dots along each side, an interesting geometrical fact.

John 21:12

Come: one of most awesome words in Bible.

Gen 7:11 Revelation 22:17

Dine: do breakfast.

And none of the disciples durst ask him...

Intimidated by Jesus.

Knew who was but didn't approach Him.

Overwhelmed by presence.

Phillips: *They loved Him, but could no longer be familiar with Him—not like in the old days. Before, they had always been more aware of His humanity than of His deity. Now they were more conscious of His deity than of His humanity.*

John 21:13

Eating meal with someone a good way to bond with them.

John 21:14

To His disciples—key.

So What?

How relate to these items:

Apostles in the boat. We, as believers

The waters: Stormy.

Fishing: We as believers are all involved in the fishing for souls of man.

Failure: fishless

Key: willing to admit failure.

When Jesus says, How are you doing (caught any meat?) we must be willing to say “No!” nothing. We are failures. We haven't been catching souls. I have caught nothing.

Hughes: *Fundamental to living productively in this age is an honesty with ourselves and with God.*