

Third Sunday of Easter – 2022

Saturday, 4/30 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/1 at 9:00



Text: John 21:1-14 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Try to imagine being one of Jesus' disciples – experiencing His amazing ministry *as well as His arrest, suffering, death, and burial*. Then, *when all hope was surely gone, Jesus was raised by the Father and appeared to His disciples:*

- First: On Easter Sunday *in Jerusalem (John 20:19-23)*:
♦ stop being afraid; ♦ I am sending you; ♦ receive the Holy Spirit; ♦ forgive sins!
- Second: One week later *in Jerusalem* and Thomas was in attendance (*John 20:24-29*): ♦ stop being afraid; ♦ stop doubting and believe; ♦ blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!
- Third: Later *in Galilee (John 21:1-14)*: This sermon focuses on *Jesus' third appearance to His disciples*: He ♦ caught their attention, ♦ drew them close, ♦ supplied their needs, and ♦ pointed to the future!

1. **Setting:** ¹ **After these things** [the first and second appearances to His disciples] **Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias** [aka, the Sea of Galilee], **and He manifested** [revealed] **Himself in this way.** // We will come to Jesus' third appearance in a moment, but first, *think about the disciples:* ▶ No leader – except when Jesus appeared; ▶ no clear direction on what to do; and ▶ no power – since the Spirit had not yet been poured out.
2. **Our Way:** [Seven of Jesus' disciples:] ² **Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.** ³ **Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.** // Thinking about those men: *years earlier they had given up their jobs to follow Jesus.* Now, with ▶no Jesus, ▶no job, and ▶some having been professional fishermen, they decided to go fishing – *possibly to earn some money for their expenses.* **It all made sense, BUT they caught nothing!** "In any calling, trade, occupation, or profession the blessing must be given by the Lord; without Him the most [diligent] efforts... are without value" (Kretzmann). (See Psalm 127:1-2.)
3. **Jesus' Way:** ⁴ **But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.** ⁵ **So Jesus said to them, "Children** [an endearing address], **you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No."** ⁶ **And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in [to the boat] because of the great number of fish.**

- a. Success: For a reason unknown to us – *possibly because they had tried their way all night without any success*, the disciples ✦took the man’s advice, ✦cast their net on the right-hand side of the boat, and ✦immediately caught so many fish that ***the combined effort of all seven could not pull the net full of fish into the boat!***
- b. Examples: ✦**When** multitudes died, *Noah and his family were saved* (Gen. 6-9); ✦**when** every Egyptian house had at least one person dead, *all the Israelites were alive* (Ex. 12); ✦**when** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a super-hot furnace, *they suffered no harm* (Dan. 3)! When we are ☞open and ☞obedient to Jesus’ way for our lives, ***then everything becomes possible!***

4. **Let Us Desire Jesus**: ⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved [that is, John] said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish. // Since the situation from NO FISH to an IMMEDIATE FULL NET OF FISH was a miracle, John shouted: *The man on the beach IS JESUS!* Then Peter, whose heart was still heavy – from having denied his relationship with Jesus three times, ***immediately went to Jesus!*** What should we do when we sin? ✦Be sincerely sorry and ✦immediately go to Jesus for mercy and forgiveness and peace!

5. **Let Us Rely on Jesus**: ⁹ So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire *already laid and fish placed on it, and bread.* ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish

which you have now caught.” ¹¹ Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come *and* have breakfast.” None of the disciples ventured to question Him, “Who are You?” knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave *it* to them, and the fish likewise. ¹⁴ This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

- a. Amazing: Even though all seven could not pull the net into the boat, ♦Peter pulled the net to the land, ♦the fish were all large, ♦it was their largest catch (indicated by the counting), and ♦the net was not torn.
- b. Jesus supplied their needs: *Tired, hungry, cold – so rest, food, and warmth. Let us rely on Jesus for our needs!*
- c. The future: As Jesus enabled the amazing catch of fish, so **He would enable them to be successful fishers of men.** *Let us also pray and share God’s truth!*

Take Aways:

- Truth – Jesus’ ways are *always best!*
- Relevance – It is critical to *do what we know!*
- Inspiration – We are 😊forgiven for the past **and** 😊empowered for the future!

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, ♦forgive us and ♦encourage us; then ♦equip us and ♦use us to consistently know and do Your will.

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