

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through the Gospel of John

We are slowly coming to the end of this truly remarkable book that the Holy Spirit inspired John to write –

And as we looked at last week –

How John provides for us his purpose in writing his account of the gospel at the end of chapter 20 -

[Jhn 20:31 NKJV] 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

In our text this morning, we are going to look at another encounter that Jesus had with His disciples.

And we are going to see the importance of walking in obedience in the Lord.

Let's pray...

Mark Twain was once quoted as saying –

“Do not tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish.”

And the reason is that when it comes to fish stories – for those of us that have fished, we tend to exaggerate our fish stories.

We always talk about the one that got away or how big the fish was that you caught that one time – it keeps growing every time we tell the story. (demo)

So, in our text this morning – we have John's fish story.

What makes John's fish story different than most fish stories is that – not only is it a true story - it is also lifechanging, if we have ears to hear to what the Lord is saying

[John 21:1-14 NKJV] 1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed [Himself]:

One of the important things that John wants to emphasize for us, here in this last chapter is that the Lord reveals Himself to us.

He wants us to have constant fellowship with Him.

He wants us to seek His face.

He wants us to know Him.

And He will reveal Himself to us.

It was during the Upper Room discourse that Jesus tells His disciples –

[Jhn 15:26 NKJV] 26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

Keep in mind that this is the third time that Jesus reveals himself to His disciples after the resurrection.

He revealed Himself the first time in verse 19 of ch 20 – when He appeared in their midst and said, “Shalom” Peace be with you

Then He revealed Himself a second time to them when Thomas was there

So who did Jesus reveal Himself to -

2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the [sons] of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

So here in verse 2 – we find the seven that were there

- Peter

In the other gospels we know that Jesus gave Simon the name Petros or Peter (little stone or Rocky)

Jesus asked His disciples – who do men say that I am?

“Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

But then Jesus makes it personal –

And He asks the disciples, "But who do you say that I am?"

[Mat 16:16-18 NKJV] 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed [this] to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Jesus said upon this rock – this is a different word than "little stone"

Jesus is referring to this confession

Upon this great confession – I will build My church

Remember, Peter is just a man

And the church was not built on a man – it was built on the confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God.

- Thomas called the Twin – we just talked about him last week – doubting Thomas. He's there – after missing out on Jesus' presense that first Sunday – Thomas isn't going to miss any other meetings with the disciples.
- Nathaniel
- the sons of Zebedee – this is James and John (the writer), btw, this is the first time to refers to himself in this way, usually it is the disciple whom Jesus loved

- Two other disciples – John doesn't name them – some say that these two could have been the same disciples that Jesus appeared to on the road to Emmaus – but I believe these two disciples are left nameless much in the same way that we saw last week where Thomas' twin is left nameless – so that we can kind of put ourselves in their place – and we become these unnamed disciples.

Now, before we continue –

I want to point out that the disciples were given instructions concerning what to do after the resurrection – they were not supposed to try to figure it out on their own.

In the Upper Room – the night before He was crucified -

[Mat 26:31-32 NKJV] 31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32 "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

On Resurrection Sunday – the angel that was at the tomb – tells the ladies the following ...

[Mar 16:6-7 NKJV] 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. 7 "But go, tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

So again, they were given instruction what to do –

They were to be obedient.

And so these disciples go to Galilee to wait for the Lord – they wanted to see Him again.

And as we will see, Jesus reveals Himself to them to show them again that He is alive.

You see church, we have a Savior that is alive!

And we are here this morning as a testimony that He lives.

And He changes hearts and He changes lives and He ministers to us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

Why did Peter go back to fishing?

Some say that Peter got impatient in waiting for the Lord – that he got restless and went back to what he used to do – he was a fisherman.

Fishing was Peter's livelihood. It was his career.

It is what he left to follow Jesus.

However, when Peter says that he is going fishing – it is more than just a recreational time.

Basically, the disciples are in a tough spot here, they have seen the Risen Christ, their hopes have been restored, but they still don't understand what is going on.

They don't understand their future ministry.

They haven't been baptized with the Holy Spirit yet.

They haven't been in that place where God has given them the power to be witnesses.

They have the Holy Spirit in them – and yet they still don't understand –

which should encourage us because it doesn't matter how long we walk with the Lord, there will be moments in our own lives where we don't know what's going on.

God Himself reveals to us what we need to know, when we need to know it.

And if we are continuing to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ as we continue to abide in Him, then we are going to continue to gain understanding on things that we did not understand yesterday or the day before.

But it is those times of not understanding that leads many to go back to fishing.

It is those times of not understanding that leads many to say,

"I am going to go back to what I did before."

Or I have even had people tell me,

"I tried Christianity, and it did not work for me."

Whatever they tried, it wasn't Christianity – because a relationship with Jesus Christ – it always works.

God is always faithful.

Even when we are faithless – He remains faithful.

When we come into a real relationship with Him and surrender to Him by faith, it is going to work and our lives will be transformed.

Peter here in verse 3, he is looking back.

When he says I am going fishing –

What he really is saying is - "I'm going back to fishing.

It was an exciting three years guys—but it's over.

It's time to go back to our old lives and careers—I'm going fishing."

[Luk 9:62 NKJV] 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Lord called Peter to be a fisher of men – not to go back to business as usual.

And one of the things that happens when we quit – is that we take others with us.

And we see that with the other disciples – as they followed Peter.

May God help us to see this morning that we can lead others astray when we go astray.

As believers, one of the things that we must be careful of, is the mentality that after the Lord has done a work in our life that we can go back to business as usual.

[Psa 40:3 NKJV] 3 He has put a new song in my mouth--Praise to our God; Many will see [it] and fear, And will trust in the LORD.

The Lord has changed my life

He took me out of the pit and set my feet upon a rock.

My life will never be the same again –

I have a new song.

I have a new perspective on life – how am I going to go back to business as usual.

Yet Peter and the disciples did just that

And after a long night of fishing – they had nothing to show for it.

Because they're in the wrong place, at the wrong time, doing the wrong thing, their nets are empty.

Their labor was in vain.

Ask yourself this question – with no direction from the Lord, can we expect to be blessed?

If we haven't been given His word on what we are doing? Can we expect to have a catch?

I don't think so –

4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

Here is Jesus – standing on the shore, revealing Himself to them – Jesus is close enough to them that they can hear Him.

But notice, they didn't know it was Jesus.

In their being absorbed in doing their own thing, they had and we do too, missed the Lord.

He wants to manifest Himself to us

He wants to be in the center of everything we do

But there are times when we are doing our own thing and we miss Him

We lose spiritual discernment

5 Then Jesus said to them,

You backsliders, you deserters, you knuckle heads

Jesus didn't say that did He?

Think of how crushing that would have been to them and to us when we blow it.

Jesus never does that.

He is so gracious as He ministers to them and us.

Jesus said -

"Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."

Jesus addresses these disciples as children

This isn't humiliation, it's tenderness.

And in the Greek – what Jesus asks them is not whether they had caught anything –

He is asking them the question expecting a “no answer”

“You don't have any food, do you?”

It is almost like the Lord is saying, “I need you to be honest with Me”

“I need you to confess – I need you to say it, how are you doing?”

He is right there ready to minister to us – but He needs to hear it out of our mouths.

6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find [some]." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

Again, these guys are professional fishermen.

This is what they do.

This is what they know to do.

They fish all night and nothing. He

And some stranger on the shore tells them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat –

Turn your bibles with me to Luke 5

We are going to be looking at another fish story -

[Luk 5:1-6 NKJV] 1 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret (Galilee), 2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing [their] nets (this means that they were done – they were removing all the debris and leaves and Gatorade bottles from the nets). **3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. 4 When He had stopped**

speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." 6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

Now, in Luke's fish story which happened early on in Jesus' earthly ministry

Similar situation – the disciples had been fishing all night with no luck

However, in Luke's fish story – Jesus is in the boat with them, notice that Peter argues with the Lord and also notice that the nets were breaking at the multitude of fish.

Here in John fish story – Jesus is not in the boat, no arguing, they were tired, they were frustrated they drop their nets and the same thing happens –

So Peter and the guys – they remembered that this had happened before.

They remembered the word of the Lord.

Church, God speaks to us through His word in doing certain things – He even gives us specific instructions on how to do it – and our response is – "I am going to do my own thing"

And God is saying, "You need to do what I am saying, you need to do it My way"

We need to listen to the Lord and obey Him – no matter what we think.

It doesn't matter how long we have been a believer –

If God commands us to cast our net to the other side of the boat – we cast our net to the other side of the boat.

His word says, "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church"

He gives us instructions on how to do it even.

And that is His word.

But not until we get His word and be obedient to His word are we going to enter into the abundance that He has for us in marriage, in relationships or whatever.

We need to listen to Him when He says, to cast our net to the other side

When He tells us to stop depending on our own strength or our own understanding.

We need to stop trying to figure things out – we need to simply trust Him and cast our net on the other side

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved (oh, I wonder who that is?) said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on [his] outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

Who is the disciple that Jesus loved? John

He wants to make sure that we know that he is the one who beat everyone to the conclusion that the man standing in the shore was Jesus.

Just like he pointed out that he beat Peter in a foot race in the last chapter

But don't miss this church

When the nets are full and we see the miracle of God, we have to respond – just like John and say, “This is the Lord”

Notice Peter's response – he jumps in the water

He is not going to wait until the boat gets to the shore -

8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. 9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.

“All night long the disciples had been looking for fish—

The disciples went fishing thinking that the big catch was going to fulfill them

when all the while, Jesus had it right at hand, freshly grilled, ready to eat.

True fulfillment is not in doing our own thing – it is in doing His thing.

Jesus had their breakfast all ready—broiled fish and bread.

We do not know whether the Lord caught these fish or whether He obtained them miraculously.

But we do learn that He is not dependent on own efforts.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

I had you make a note of the word fish

And the reason is that the word that is used for fish here by Jesus is only found in one other place in the scriptures

And that is found in John 6 – when Jesus takes the two small fish from the lad and feeds the 5000.

Jesus is saying here – bring the fishies you caught

And notice – that John says that Peter goes out and drags the net by himself – just moments earlier, they guys couldn't lift the net into the boat – but here Peter is able to drag the net through the sand on his own

God's commandments are His enablement's

When God commands us to do something – He will enable us to do it.

When God commands us to step out in faith – He is going to give us the faith to do it.

And I also had you make a note that their nets did not break

As long as Jesus is calling the shots, the nets will hold.

Sometimes we think our personal lives can only hold so many "fish".

We can tend to limit ourselves in what we can do.

But if Jesus is leading us, He can do an incredible amount through us.

12 Jesus said to them, "Come [and] eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"--knowing that it was the Lord.

Jesus gives us 3 invitations in John's gospel

- John 1:39 – Come and see
- John 7:37 - If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
- And here - Come [and] eat breakfast

Back then, to eat with a person meant that you became a part of the person

And that is the invitation that goes out to everyone

He is not going to force us to eat with Him

He wants us to open our heart's door to Him

[Rev 3:20 NKJV] 20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. 14 This [is] now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

Jesus serves His disciples much in the same way that He fed the multitudes earlier in the gospel.

It was a reminder to them and us – that He is the One who provides and will continue to provide

It was a reminder of His power of who He is

But also, it was reminder of what He was called to do -

[Mar 10:45 NKJV] 45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Psa 139:23-24 NKJV] 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if [there is any] wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

And that is the type of heart that we should as we are guided in everything we do by His word.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

