

Title: Why Fishermen Do Not Catch Fish

Text: John 21:1-14

Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the Gospel of John chapter 21. John chapter 21 beginning with Vs 1. This is one of my favority chapters. Our subject: WHY FISHERMEN DO NOT CATCH FISH.

John chapter 21 beginning with Vs 1..(READ VS 1-14)

Prayer

We thank you, Father, for your Word. We thank you for the power of the Gospel of Christ. And Father, we pray, that you will teach us from this story that happened so long ago. That we might understand what it means for us today. We pray, Lord, for those who have come today who are not really sure of where they stand in their relationship to Jesus. I pray that in these moments together your Spirit may come upon them and convict them. And I pray, Father, that the Holy Spirit might minister food and strength and encouragement to every believer. That we, like Peter, might reflect deeply upon these things. And come to an understand what Jesus wants from everyone of us.

And we pray this in the precious name of Jesus.....Amen.

Following His resurrection, Jesus appeared to many, many people over a period of 40 days. And in John chapter 21 he is once again, ^{File to this time} appearing to His disciples. They are down at the sea of Tiberias or Gillelee fishing. And Jesus appears to them.

This 21st chapter teaches two great principles. ^(1B) The first principle deals with the matter of evangelism. And this is the principle we will look at today. ^(2B) The second principle deals with the matter of feeding those who have come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. And we will deal with that principle next Sunday morning.

(5B) So, Let's look at this principle of evangelism in these first 14 verses.

(1C) And the first thing I want to look at are the resons why Jesus appeared to these disciples down at the Sea of Gillelle. There are basical three reasons ~~w~~for this appearance.

(1D) Number one. I believe Jesus appeared to these men to prove to them that He was alive. To prove to them that He was alive.

In Vs 1 of chapter 21, it says, "after these things Jesus manifested himself again to the disciples." The word "manifested" means "to put on public display." You see, it was the intention of Jesus to publicly, and as clearly as possible, show these men that he was actually alive and not a make believe person or a spirit.

In chapter 20, Jesus appeared before the disciples and invited them to handle and to touch Him and to know that a spirit does not have flesh and bones. He ate food. He had a physical body. And He wanted them to know that.

In the book of Acts, ~~if you will just turn over a page to~~ chapter 1 verse 3, we find, again, that this really is the purpose of His appearances. Vs 3 says, "to these", that is His disciples, "to thesee He also presented himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs."

So, you see It is the intention of Jesus to make sure these men knew He was alive. His brothers did not believe upon him, even through they grew up with Him. But after seeing Him alive, the Bible says they understood and believed on Him.

James, the brother of Jesus, who wrote the espistle of James, after Jesus appeared to him, I Cor. 15:7 says that he believed.

Salvation is based upon your belief that Jesus is actually alive... bodily and physically. That He arose from the dead.

So, that is one purpose for His appearance. He appeared to prove that He really was physically alive.

(2D) *He* His second reason for appearing to His disciples was to ~~proclaim His message and to give to His disciples~~ instructions concerning the kingdom of God.

We read in Vs 3 of Acts chapter 1 that he appeared to them over a period of 40 days, "and speaking of the things concerning the Kingdom of God." Jesus spent a great deal of time with these men teaching them and giving them insight that they had not known before. And Jesus had this important purpose of teaching them the message about the KINGDOM OF GOD. In fact, they even ask him in Vs 6, "Lord, is it at this time that you will restore the kingdom of God to Israel?"

once again

once again to His disciples

them

"He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority." So, he appeared to them to give them instructions concerning the Kingdom of

(3D) The third reason why ^{These} appearances of Jesus ^{are} so important is that He wanted to prepare them for a great ministry that they were going to have.
Jesus was preparing them for a tremendous ministry.

If you will notice from Acts chapter 1...turn there please...Acts chapter 1 verse 4, 5 and 8...(READ VS 4-5,8)

That great commission is, also, given in detail in Matthew chapter 28.. it is found in the book of Mark chapter 16 and in the book of Luke chapter 24

So, one of the reasons why Jesus appeared to his disciples was to prepare them for the ministry that they were going to have. To inform them that the Holy Spirit was going to come upon them and they were going to have power to witness.

Dear friends, that same power is here today. And I believe the instructions of John 21 is related to that ministry that Jesus wants us to do. That is what chapter 21 is all about.

O.K. knowing that, let's come back to John 21 and let's begin with Vs 3.
(2C) Now secondly, let's examine their inability to catch fish.

Now, fishermen are suppose to know what fishing is all about. They are suppose to know where to catch fish. These men had worked all of their life in the fishing business. They knew the right spots to fish...the right times of day..the right ^{Kind of Net To use} ~~bate~~ to us. They were experienced fisherman.

But, on this occasion, they were unable to catch fish. And it wasn't just an unlucky day. It was under the plan of God. ^{and I Really Believe that} And I would like to share three reasons why these fisherman didnot catch any fish.

(1) Number one, the first reason why these fishermen did not catch any fish was that this was a response to the resurrection. This whole thing is amazing to me. It is a response to the resurrection. Now, follow carefully the words in your Bible.

Vs 1 says, "After these things". And then there is sort of a paraphrase untill ^{you} pick it up again in Vs 3 where Peter says, "I AM GOING FISHING."

When was he going fishing? He was going fishing "AFTER THESE THINGS." WHAT THINGS? The things of chapter 20. Where Jesus appeared to them and showed them His wounds, his hands, his feet, and his side.

And that is amazing when you remember that that happened in Jersuaem. So, Peter and this band of disciples left Jersuaem, the place where Jesus told them to stay....They left Jersuaem and went up to the Sea of Tiberias to their old home town to go fishing.

NOW, WHY DID THEY GO UP THERE? Some people say they went home to witness. NO WAY...They went home to go fishing. Their attitude----"Well, Jesus is leaving ...let's go back home and go fishing."

^{So,} They went back to the sea of Tiberias and guess what? Jesus shows up. Man, I like that. It is beautiful. Jesus didn't leave them alone. They went back to go fishing and Jesus shows up. "Hay! what are you guys doing here? Don't you remember what I told you to do? I have got something great for you. I have a ministry for you that you are not going to believe. The Holy Spirit is coming. What are you doing here?" ^{Fishing!}

And so I find this response to the resurrection amazing. And it teaches me why they were unable to catch fish. They were not responding to what they had seen and what they had been told to do. ^{Jesus} ~~Christ~~ had appeared to them and told ^{them} ~~they~~ what to do. Yet, they went back home ^{in disobedience} to go fishing.

I think it is interesting that Peter is the one who is the leader. If it is good, he is the leader. If it is bad, he is the leader. Peter said, "I am going fishing." And they all said, "We are going with you." We ~~don't know where you are going Peter,~~ ^{want to go with you Peter} but anybody that pulls a sword out in the Garden ~~when~~ ^{when} no one else would, We are going to go with you..(ha)

Now, I happen to believe that ~~the~~ ^{Peter} man was a ^{man} strong. And I believe they were trusting in his human strength. I believe that. I want to tell you why. In Vs 6 they were not able to draw the fish. But, in Vs 11, Peter, himself, draws the whole ~~thing~~ ^{Net Full} up to land.....153 fish....Anyone, who knows anything about fishing will tell you Peter must have been powerful to be able to pull 153 fish up on dry land...

You have heard of the statement, THE BIG FISHERMAN, as describing PETER. Well, I believe that is a correct description. Either that or dynamite comes in small packages....He was strong. And I believe they were trusting in his ^{own} strength. And not in their own spiritual strength...

When Peter spoke, they followed...Notice what it says in Vs 3. They said "We are going with you." and they went and got into the boat. ^{boat} Just like that. Nobody stood around and said, "You know, Peter, I don't think we ought to do this. The Lord wanted us to remain here." Nobody, suggested that they stay. No questions ask. ~~They just did it~~ ^{They just did it}.....

Just like ~~you~~ ^{many people today} and I.....We have God's Word. God has told us what to do...And yet, every little idea that comes along that sounds good, ^{Best Show in Town} we jump on the band wagon and follow along. And we become inactive, confused, discouraged christians being tossed and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men. And the ministry that God has for us sets on the side line waiting for someone with spiritual ^{backbone} strength to take a stand and say, "HERE AM I LORD, USE ME." ^{They went Fishing}

22 D Secondly, I want you to notice the realization that something was wrong.

fisherman

*B - Fishy Kears
Kern River*

You know how they realized this?...Like any ~~fisher~~ does..It tells us at the end of Vs 3: "that night they caught nothing."....

Now apply that principle to your life.

SUPPLY

Do You know when God really alerts you to what is wrong in your life?

When nothing is happening.....When nothing is happening in your life, God is alerting you that something is wrong in your life.

They realized that something was wrong, for they caught nothing.

~~When nothing is happening... God is alerting you to something wrong in your life.~~

The basic way God gets our attention, gets us to realize that something is wrong in our life is because nothing is happening. We are dry, there is no growth, no effectiveness, no Joy in the lord, no real relationship with him. Nothing...nothing is happening. And Jesus tells us in John 15:5 that "he is the vine, and we are the branches and apart from him we can do nothing." THE POINT IS: THEY WERE TRYING TO CAUGHT FISH WITHOUT JESUS.

Like us...many times we do things or ^{pursue} things without ^{the lord} God, and ^{we} they fall and we end up doing nothing. *Sitting on the side line doing nothing while the ministry goes unnoticed and the pastor passes us by*

Turn with me to the Gospel of Luke chapter 5. Here, we have another fishing ^{story} incident. You would think that Peter would learn. Luke chapter 5:3

(READ VS 3-4)

Now, any fisherman knows that you don't fish out there in the middle of the lake. But, that is what ^{Jesus} said.

Vs 5.."And Simon answered and said, "master, we worked hard all night and caught..what?..nothing."

We experienced fisherman have been fishing all night and caught nothing. His point was: "your idea, Lord, to go out into the middle of the Lake is really ridiculous." I mean, Lord, we have been all over this lake. And I will tell you one thing, you don't go out into the middle ^{To catch fish}

But, you must give credit to Peter on this ^{one} occasion. He said, "at your bidding I will let down the nets.".....

My humor causes me to think that Jesus would have like to have said to Peter..."THANKS....I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT VOTE OF CONFIDENCE...."

So, often we finally give the Lord credit. We have blow it. We have done nothing in our lives. We are unfruitful. And finally we say, "Well, all else has failed. I guess you can have a chance now lOrd."

Have you ever done that? You know, when all else fails, we trust the Lord. And we reveal the problem in our own nature. We ~~will do anything put trust~~ *Trusty self instead of* ~~Him~~ *trust, the Lord*

So, they let the nets down and Vs 6 says there were so many fish that the nets broke. The nets didn't break in John 21.

Vs 7 They called to their partners to come and help them. And I really like this: ..They caught so many fish the boat began to sink. Isn't that great? *(Calm Haze)*

NOW, LISTEN, WHEN WE LET GOD WORK...LOOK OUT! I mean..God just wants to unload on us. The boat was sinking. Have you got the picture? They were out in the middle of the lake with all these fish and they were sinking.

Now, what did Peter do?..Vs 8.."But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, 'depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

Now, why would he say that? Do you remember from Matthew chapter 14? The disciples were out fishing and Jesus came to them walking on the water. And Peter wanted to go to Him and he walked on the water. Do you remember that story? He went to Jesus walking on the water and when he took his eyes off of Jessu he began to sink and he careid out to the Lord, "SAVE ME."

Well, here he cries out, "LORD, DEPART FROM ME, I AM A SINFUL MAN." Peter was amazed at all the fish he had caught.

Vs 9.."For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also James and John, sons of Zebedee who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "DO NOT FEAR, FROM NOW ON YOU WILL BE CATCHING MEN."

What were they to catch?..MEN!..I am amazed at people who try to aviod this...They read this and say, "Well, God wants us to do the best we can."

NO WAY....

Dear friends, the text is very clear. JESUS WANTS US TO CATCH MEN AND WOMEN. You see, this whole illustration of fishing is about catching people. It is about soul winning. It is about witnessing. That is what it is all about. Jesus said you are going to catch men. Vs 11.. "when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him."

But, you notice in John 21, they went right back to fishing. Dose that every happen to you? Sure it does. It happens to all of us. We made some commitment along the line.. "Lord, I will do everything you want me to do. I will forsake all and follow you." And then, one day, you look around and find that you have gone right back to the old life. And the task that God has for you is still waiting to be done. Do You understand? *Please come back to Jh*
IT happens to all of us. But that is no reason to give up

O.K. Let's come back to John 21. Peter realized that something was wrong for they caught nothing.

(3) Third, I know that there is something wrong with these fishermen because Vs 4 says they didnt recognize Jesus. How sad. But it is so true.

Their recognition of Jesis was lacking. Yet, they heard His voice. And I believe the lesson, here, is so simple. They were not alert to Him. He came and they did not recognize Him.

How many times, I wonder, has the Lord sent an opportunity for ministry our way and because of self or pride or lack of faith,= or what ever, we have missed the whole ball game. Oh,..we know Jesus. It takes simple faith to believe in Him. And it takes simple faith to follow him. But, like the disciples, our spiritual recognition is lacking

Now, why does this happen? It happens when we forget, leave, or egnore our Lord's instructions. You see, the disciples were not doing what they knew the Lord wanted them to do. And they were going back to the old life. Therefore, they did not recognie Christ when He came.

Here is the application. When vision fades...faith weakens. And we then hesitate to do what Jesus instructes us to do. And we do not recognize the freshness of His presence and become satisfied with present conditions. *all part*

Dear Friends, Today is the day of our calling...People, or churches, do not catch fish or win the lost when (1) they are not responding to the teachings of Jesus...(2) when ^{you feel to} they realize that something is wrong, but ~~fail~~ ^{ad} to do anything about it.....(3) and thus they fail to recognize Jesus when He comes our way.

←...BUT, PRAISE GOD....THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE COIN IS ALSO TRUE... When Christian folks are responding and applying the Word of God to their lives.....when they recognize that something is wrong and they then determine that they will reach out to others.....THEN....when Jesus comes, they will see Him and know Him and follow Him.

^{Dear}, friends, let us believe the unbelievable. That the infinite God of the universe loves us and desires that no one should perish, but that all should come to repentence. And then let us put on the armor of God so that in the days and months and ~~years~~ to come our light will shine before men in such a way that they may see our good work and glorify the Father who is in heaven.

And most of all....let's go fishing....Let's make a real effort, once again, to invite....bring....people to Jesus and his church.

Jesus said: "Come! follow me! and I will make you fishers of men."

Shall we pray

That as they we ~~have~~ heavy next Sunday
 INVITE A Friend Sunday