

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: John – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: John 21:1-14 – a memorable third appearance of Jesus to the disciples.

Today's Message:

"Fishing Memories"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned of the glorious resurrection of our Lord and its impact on those closest to Him. Their lives would never be the same – and rightly so. Today, we arrive at the last chapter, it will feel much different as John writes His final **MEMORIES**. We will find the disciples fishing again. It must have been some time since they got to do that – 3 years to be exact! They will spend the night fishing and catch **NOTHING** in their nets. The next morning, a man on the shore will ask them a simple question – How are things going? He will then proceed to tell *commercial* fishermen to cast their net on the **RIGHT** side of the ship resulting in a multitude of great fishes! John will immediately identify the man as the Lord who will invite them all to dine with Him! What memories! This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text John 21:1-14

A. Fishing Again (1-3) – the disciples went back to their **OLD** fishing place.

1. The context is the sea of *Tiberias* – which is the sea of *Galilee*. Why use this name?
 - **Matthew 28:7** – And go quickly, and tell his disciples...**he goeth before you into Galilee...**
 - **Mark 16:7** – ... he goeth... **into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.**
 - **John 6:1** – After these things Jesus went over... **sea of Galilee, which is... sea of Tiberias.**
 - This is the place where the feeding of the 5,000 was situated; think about that!
 - The sea of Galilee is 33 miles around and 13 miles long; *Tiberias* is Roman.
2. Three years earlier, many of the disciples had been **full-time** commercial fishermen.
 - **Matthew 4:18** – And Jesus, **walking by the sea of Galilee**, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: **for they were fishers.**
 - **Matthew 4:19** – And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**
 - **Matthew 4:20** – And **they straightway left their nets, and followed him.**
 - After their decision to follow Jesus Christ, their lives had been focused on Him!
3. Three years earlier, Jesus got into Peter's boat after he had caught **NOTHING**.
 - **Luke 5:1-3** – ... he stood by **the lake of Gennesaret...** he entered into **one of the ships...**
 - **Luke 5:5** – And Simon answering... **Master, we have toiled all the night...taken nothing...**
 - **Psalms 137:6** – **If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof... my mouth...**
 - What do you think Peter was thinking? What about John? The others?

Interesting Note

It seems evident that the disciples are doing their own thing here.

Interesting Note

Sometimes what you remember of your past is not as exciting as you thought it was!

"I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee."

Peter is the leader; they follow him. As exciting as it must have sounded, all night with no fish must have been a letdown. When the morning was come, Jesus was waiting for them.

B. Fishing Memories (4-6) – John was first to **REMEMBER** His amazing Lord!

Questions

When was the last time
God asked you
these questions?
How are you really doing?
What is your life like?

4. Jesus, who knew what was really going on, **ASKED** them how things were going.
 - **Matthew 12:25** – And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them...
 - **Luke 6:8** – But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man...
 - **Heb 4:12** – For the word of God is quick, and powerful... is a discerner of the thoughts...
 - **Jeremiah 23:29** – Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer...
 - Jesus Christ has the best approach to help His disciples; He chose a question.
5. The disciples received instruction; they showed at least an appearance of **HUMILITY**.
 - **Luke 5:5** – ... **nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.**
 - **Luke 5:8** – When Simon Peter saw it, **he fell down at Jesus' knees,** saying, *Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*
 - The surprise was coming! They just needed a reminder of what Jesus can do!
6. John knew **IMMEDIATELY** that it was the Lord; Peter jumped into the water!
 - **Luke 5:10** – And so was also James, and **John... which were partners with Simon.**
 - John had a good memory! 153 great fishes – a God-size answer! It must be Him!
7. Jesus had provisions ready; He said to bring of the fish which they **NOW** caught.
 - **Mark 6:38** – He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, **Five, and two fishes.**
 - **Mark 6:43** – And they took up **twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.**
 - **Judges 3:7** – ... children of Israel **did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD...**
 - Did Jesus have other plans? How many fishes? How quickly we forget God!

Luke 5:11

And when they had brought their ships to land, **they forsook all, and followed him.**

Question

Are you tired of doing things your way? God's way is so much better!

C. Dining with Jesus (7-14) – Jesus saith unto them, **COME** and dine.

8. The disciples knew it was the Lord, but there was something **DIFFERENT** about Him.
 - **John 20:14** – ... and **saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.**
 - **Luke 24:16** – But **their eyes were holden that they should not know him.**
 - **John 20:20** – And when he had so said, **he shewed unto them his hands and his side.**
 - **Revelation 5:6** – And I beheld... in the midst... stood **a Lamb AS IT HAD BEEN SLAIN...**
 - It has been said the only scars in Heaven will be our Lord's scars; imagine that!
9. The disciples got to have one more **MEAL** with the Lord before His departure.
 - **Luke 24:42-43** – And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And **he took it, and did eat before them.**
 - **Acts 10:41** – Not to all the people, **but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.**
 - **Revelation 3:20** – Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**
 - **Revelation 19:9** – And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb...**
 - How their lives had changed in 3 years! Now rest, then preach until their death!

John 21:12

Jesus saith unto them, **Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou?** Knowing that it was the Lord.

John 16:20

Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

“This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples...”

What must the conversation have been like on that day? Their sorrow had been turned into joy at the sight and fellowship of their Lord. Soon, they would take the Gospel to the ends of the world!