

John's Gospel @ CF...

John 21:1-14

Sermon notes – BK

April 26, 2026

We finished the amazing chapter of John 20...

Three weeks of Resurrection Sunday!

Not sure when you will ever get that again!

**From Mary Magdelene - to Peter and John - back to Mary -
and then to the rest of the Disciples... Wow!**

**You can go to our website or YouTube to catch the
backstory in case you missed it.**

**NOW... we come to one of my favorite unfolding passages
of all of the Bible.**

We are reminded in this amazing chapter...

Jesus satisfies our deepest needs as we believe in Him

**We will see this a whole lot today, and in the next two
weeks.**

Today we are going to read this text a bit differently.

**We will take it one section at a time to unpack and take a
deeper look at.**

John 21:1-3

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, 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 go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Remember (getting back into context)...

- **Most of the disciples have seen the risen Jesus two times now.**
- **Thomas was missing the first time, but then fully convinced at his first encounter, (their second), with the risen Jesus, that it was truly Jesus and their crucified Savior was indeed alive...**

Then Jesus was gone again...

Both times Jesus speaks peace over them and gives them the Holy Spirit and some instruction...

John 20:21b

“As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

They did not have much to go on as of yet...

So... *Peter gets busy doing what he knows to do until there is further instruction...*

What does Peter know?

Fishing.

- This is logical
- I am sure there are several in THIS room that can relate to “Drop-a-line therapy!” (in this case net)
- I am sure there are a few here that can relate to that!

John lists out who goes with... I am sure John had reason to list those he did –

- Thomas – The dude that just was schooled by Jesus and proclaimed Jesus’ identity
- Nathanael (not sure why)
- Sons of Zebedee (John still not naming himself)
- Two other disciples that are unnamed... Some commentators point out that these “unnamed” disciples represent the majority of the saints... all the way to us.
 - Likely (my opinion) one of these two was Andrew, Peter’s brother, and...?

They follow Peter’s lead and go fishing...

Was there anything wrong with this?

No, I think they were just doing what came naturally to them.

Unfortunately, they fished all night, and *didn’t catch a thing.*

Then this happened...

John 21:4-8

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said

to them, “Children, do you have any fish?”⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.

They hear the man on shore calling out to them,

“Children, do you have any fish?”

This was not a slam

This was more of a term of endearment

This was a call out from the Teacher to His students

From the Master to His Disciples

From the Creator of all things (including fish) to the ones about to receive an amazing haul of fish!

They respond honestly... *“No.”*

Then the Teacher, Master and Creator of all things tells them to put out the net... one more time.

- They had done all they could
- Now it was time to be reminded of what God can do....

“Cast the net on the right side of the boat,”

There does not seem to be anything significant about the right side, except that Jesus gave them instructions that were clear.

“...and you will find some.”

“...some.”

They did as the man on the beach tells them to...



Can you imagine what they are thinking?

- What is going on?
- Where did all these fish come from?!
- Where have we seen this before?

I'll bet there were instant flash-backs (at least for Simon Peter, James and Andrew)...

Early on in the ministry of Jesus... recorded in Luke 5:1-11

- Jesus commandeers Simon's fishing boat (Before Jesus renames him to Peter)
- Jesus teaches from the boat, after they push out from the shore a bit...
- Jesus then tells Peter

Luke 5:4b

"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

What happened?

There was so much fish that it almost sunk Simon and Andrews's boat and also the boat of James and John!

Do you think this was going on in the back of Peter's mind?

I am sure it was!

John 21:7-8

⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

Peter was already pondering... and with that

Peter puts his coat on and jumps into the water...

- **That will help him get to the shore faster!**

- Thoughts he might be walking on the water as he did before? (Just a thought...)
- In this act, Peter shows a powerful and compelling desire to be reconciled with Jesus.

Can you just imagine the scene? Something out of a movie really...

John 21:9-14

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

These details are amazing

Jesus knew all that was going on...

- The fishing all night
- The empty net
- The likely frustration...

He knew...

- He would have them cast the net out
- Jesus had already sent out the call to the fish to be there!

- ***Jesus had already ordered the fish to be there.***

Jesus was prepared...

- The perfect host
- Jesus was ready to receive His brothers on the beach

Jesus had...

- The “charcoal fire”
 - Fires take at least an hour to get to that point
- Fish already laid out on the coals
- Bread ready

Jesus said to them –

“Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.”



- ***Isn't that cute? Fish “they caught”***
- **This, of course was the perfect thing to do...**
 - Jesus was inviting them to participate
 - Jesus was validating their efforts at the same time

Peter goes back and man-handles the net to shore...

There was 153 (large) fish!

Tilapia (as we mentioned) was the likely fish...

- **A “large” one could have been between 2-2.5 pounds each...**
- **This would have been close to 400 pounds!**
- **Still the net was not torn**

- **There has been much made of the number 153 over the centuries...**
- **Likely it was just an amazing catch... and OF COURSE the fishermen are going to count!**

The truth is, this is an accounting of an eyewitness that was a fisherman and he knew the details, because that was part of his (old) job!

Jesus invites them all to breakfast (and now had more fish, just in case...)

John makes it clear – They knew it was Jesus

Jesus... even after His resurrection shows what it is to be a leader and serves them.

I am guessing this would have been an amazing breakfast.

Jesus took care of their basic needs –

- **He provided fish for their net (funds for the immediate needs to come)**
- **He provided breakfast for them, knowing they were tired and hungry**

- He provided a place for to be alone with just a few...

Is this not one of the most beautiful pictures of Jesus with some of His disciples?

Jesus did not handle this like so many of us would have...

- Jesus was not out proving He rose from the dead to the religious leaders.
- Jesus was not walking through all the walls at the temple trying to draw a crowd to tell them how wrong they were

Jesus was alone, with some of the ones that would change the world as He led... THEM to do it.

Jesus knew and STILL knows what we need

Matthew 6:30-33

³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Jesus was and STILL is all powerful to provide

Jesus was and STILL “sends the fish” – even when we have no idea what is ahead.

We can trust our Lord Jesus to do the same for us today...

Jesus satisfies our deepest needs as we believe in Him

Especially our biggest need to be reconciled to God!

Though we were once alienated from God, He brought us near –

Colossians 1:21-23

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Jesus has done the same for us, as He did for His disciples....

We will get more into this over the next couple of weeks...