

Friend of Sinners

Part 1: Voices

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Lead Teaching Pastor

John 21:1-7a

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

5 Voices in Critical Life Moments

1. The voice of Satan — a voice of accusation

“Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.” - Revelation 12:10

2. The voice of our False Self — the voice of shame

“You’re right.”

3. The voice of our True Self — the voice of truth

“But Jesus said...”

4. The voice of a friend of sinners — the voice of direction

“It is the Lord.”

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. - Galatians 6:1

John 21:7b-11

^{7b} As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

An Interesting Tidbit: 153 = Ani Olhim = I am God

5. The voice of Jesus — a voice of invitation and restoration

John 21:12-14

Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

In this critical moment of life, right now, who will I listen to?

Next Steps

Of the many classes we’re offering this fall, one is specifically designed to help you answer the question above. If you’re longing to hear and recognize the voice of Jesus, consider attending the upcoming class **Jesus: Listening for His Voice**. This co-ed class meets 8 Sundays starting September 29 (next Sunday) from 9:15-10:45 AM. Register today at the Connection Point or online at ctk.church/bellingham/classes.

Small Group Questions

- 1) When you’re feeling overwhelmed, confused, or flooded, what do you do to clear your head?
- 2) Do you have a favorite Jesus story? What is it, and why?
- 3) Read John 21:1-14 again. Have you encountered any of the voices listed in the outline? What happened, and how did you respond?
- 4) Read Galatians 6:1. What does this verse teach you about being a friend of sinners?
- 5) Has Jesus revealed himself to you in the past week? In what way(s)?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?