

The disciples get to WORK

At the start of his ministry, Jesus chose fishermen from Galilee as disciples (Matt. 4:18). As Jesus lived in Capernaum and they had spent most of their discipleship time in that area, after he resurrected in Jerusalem, Jesus told them to meet him back in Galilee 85 miles north (Matt. 28:10). *Sometimes following God takes you on an unexpected journey!* As Jesus wasn't specific on where or when he'd meet them, the disciples return to their homes to wait for further instructions. Needing to feed their families and pay bills, they return to the work they were skilled at. Though they're the 'chosen ones,' not wanting to be idle or lazy, they use their skills to bless God, themselves, and others. Spiritual maturity should lead to physical industry. *While you wait for God's instruction, work for God's glorification* (Prov. 10:4; 14:23; Matt. 25:26-30; 2 Thess. 3:10-12)!

The disciples get TRAINING

Arriving in Capernaum, Peter tells other disciples he's going fishing, and they join him. Years earlier, Jesus prophesied Peter would become the leader, and here it shines, as disciples voluntarily follow him as they respect his life and work ethic (John 1:40-42). *If you think you're a leader, just turn around, if no one is following you, you're just out for a walk!* In the cool evening, fish move closer to shore, so they row to Tabgha and cast nets all night but catch nothing. As morning arrives, a man on the shore says to cast to the right side, they obey and catch 153 fish. The attributes of a good fisherman are the same for a good Christian—obedient, consistent labor, often in the face of frustration and fruitlessness. *God blesses good obedience not good intentions* (Matt. 21:28-32; Gal. 6:9)!

The disciples get BREAKFAST

Once John recognized Jesus, Peter jumped into the water and swam to shore (no walking this time!). He didn't realize a normal day would become abnormal. *Sometimes God uses the mundane to set the stage for the miraculous!* Jesus had already made a fire with fish and bread to eat when they arrived. Jesus gives *them* credit for the catch though he provided the fish and unbroken net! This is a perfect example of human effort working with divine providence. *Work like it depends on you, trust knowing it depends on God!*