



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Mark Sermon Series

Supports Session 13: Alive

Sermon Title: "Fishers of Men" (John 21:1-14)

Connection to Session 13

Each Gospel shares a testimony of the resurrected Jesus. In John's gospel account, the resurrected Lord met seven of the disciples who were fishing and shared a meal with them on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Introduction/Opening

For forty days after His resurrection, Christ appeared in bodily form to His followers. He ascended into heaven after these appearances. By the time He ascended, Jesus had convinced the other disciples that He was truly alive. This encounter underscored their mission: they would be fishers of men!

Outline

1. Recognize Jesus's Power (vv. 1-7)

- a. Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and two unnamed disciples were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. After toiling all night, they had caught nothing. At daybreak, they saw a man on the shore who asked, "You don't have any fish, do you?" (v. 5). At this point, they did not recognize that it was Jesus who was speaking to them.
- b. Jesus suggested they shove off and try it again, casting their nets on the right side of the boat.
- c. At this, they tried again, casting the net on the right side of the boat. The result was astonishing. They were unable to haul in the net because it held so many fish!
- d. With the catch, John, the beloved disciple, confidently asserted "It is the Lord!" (v. 7).
- e. Peter was so sure that he jumped overboard to swim ashore.

- f. Like the disciples, we recognize Jesus's power as we walk with Him. It's this power that will embolden and equip us to follow Him in obedience.

2. Accept Instructions for the Task (vv. 8-11)

- a. A blessing of walking with Jesus is that we become familiar with Him in His dealings with us. These patterns are an indicator of His abiding presence with us and His unchanging grace.
- b. The miraculous catch of 153 fish (v. 11) resulted from following the simple yet unusual directions of Jesus. The nets didn't break. The common resources in the hands of the disciples were adequate.
 - i. All Moses needed was to take his staff with him to Egypt (Ex. 4:12,17). With his staff he would frighten Pharaoh's court as it turned into a snake (4:3). With his staff he would strike the earth and cause gnats to cover Egypt (8:16). And finally, Moses would hold his staff over the Red Sea and it would separate and allow the children of Israel to cross on dry land (14:16).
- c. Likewise, today all we need do is follow the simple instructions of Jesus. We are to love one another and witness to the world what He has done for us. We are given all that's needed for the task. We have enough. All we have to do is throw the net on the other side of the boat.
- d. Jesus had earlier said they would be fishers of men (Matt. 4:19; Mark 1:17). As they followed the instructions of Jesus to witness, they would reap a bountiful harvest of souls.

3. Abide with Jesus (vv. 12-14)

- a. The Passover that occurred before Jesus's crucifixion is called the last supper. However, this meal on the shore of Galilee happens after that and before Jesus's ascension.
- b. There is not a more beautiful picture in Scripture than this meal. Jesus had a fire going when the men pulled ashore. Some of the recently caught fish were added to the fire (v.10) and then they enjoyed a meal together.
- c. Jesus was not a ghost or spirit. He was physically there with them, preparing them for the task ahead.
- d. As Christians, we also are tasked with sharing the gospel. We will be best equipped for this work when we recognize Jesus's power, follow the guidance He offers, and

prioritize time spent with Him in prayer and in God's Word. He will provide all we need to be effective fishers of men!

Conclusion

Jesus did not leave his disciples ill-equipped for the task of spreading the gospel. He was with them, teaching and preparing them, supplying all they would need to fulfill the task. Likewise, He is with us. He equips us to complete the mission of sharing the gospel message with the world.

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