

John 21: 1-14; “Breakfast with Jesus”, A Message for the Easter Morning
Breakfast on March 27th, 2016, Delivered
by Pastor Paul Rendall.

The words that I just read to you have been written down for our instruction and encouragement; we who believe in Jesus who has been raised from the dead. Our Lord Jesus is with us in our common work as well as in our spiritual labors for Him. He makes Himself known in the ordinances and services of worship, but He is also greatly concerned with the things of everyday importance that we involve ourselves in. The incidents of Jesus manifesting Himself are carefully chosen by John so that we might benefit from the lessons taught to the disciples who were there. Jesus chooses the times and ways that He manifests Himself to us spiritually, both in connection with His Word and in connection with the everyday lessons of life. (That is in His Providence)

We learn here 1st – That it is good to take the initiative to work and to provide for your needs and to use your time wisely. (verses 1-3)

These men had not yet entered upon their Great Commission work, but they were in the waiting stage. Still, they would be busy and profit from their work. They did what they had previously known to do – They went fishing. At least some of them were fishermen. The others would not be hurt by learning. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all of your might. They went out immediately and fished all night but caught nothing. Sometimes, as Christians, initiative is not enough to guarantee success in what we are doing. Sometimes, something more is needed.

2^{ndly} – We learn that Christ observes us with compassion in all of our endeavors. (verse 4)

Whether great or small endeavors the Lord Jesus is watching you with a caring, sympathetic eye. (Jesus stood on the shore.) The disciples did not know it was Him. Jesus now is in heaven at the right hand of God, but He is not far away from any of His people. His Spirit is within us. His eye is on the sparrow. (He is on the shore, we are in the boat.)

3^{rdly} – We learn that He is concerned to help us in our endeavors to provide for ourselves and further His kingdom. (verses 5-7)

He saw them as children; His children. He asks them to tell Him of their true state of need. (Have you any food?) No, they say. Then cast your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some. Where the Lord directs we will be successful. All of our hope of success lies in obeying His word as to what we should do and we should proceed. The Lord would show us our dependence upon Him even in the common labors of our hands. The Lord rewards faith and obedience in relation to all of our labors.

4th – We learn that we can discern our Lord’s being with us and for us in our work. (verse 7)

John recognized that this was the Lord because of this incident’s similarity to a previous one which is recorded in Luke 5: 1-11. Jesus had said to them then, after that great catch of fish – “Do not be afraid.” “From now on you will be catching men.” So too, we can know our Lord’s hand in our labors by the successes which we cannot attribute to our own diligence and skill. We know that it is good to have diligence and skill and perseverance and patience; but God gives success, and God gives the increase. It is good when we can discern our Lord’s hand in our work.

5th – We learn that Jesus would have us to bring the fruit of our labors (the catch) to Him – to add to what He has already prepared. (verses 8-11)

All that we labor for, whether it is in providing for ourselves physically or spiritually, and every success that we have in our labors which brings a good result is from Christ Himself.

These men were instructed to bring some of what they had, and to add it to what Christ had already prepared for them. The catch that they had gotten was very large, and yet their net was not damaged at all. Jesus had made the fire of coals, and on it were laid fish and bread for the disciples to eat. Jesus would have us to eat from our labors and to see that it all comes from Him, even though we have worked to obtain it. In spiritual labors we are dependent upon Him as well. The 153 large fish may represent the number of the races and tribes and tongues and nations of the world from which the Church fishes out men and women and children to God's everlasting glory. All of God's Elect will be gathered, the Church laboring together with what Christ has supplied to them. There will be every reason to rejoice that we have done what we could with the time and resources that He has given to us. We will never regret working hard in accordance with His written Word, and the moving of His Spirit to bless our efforts. He shall have all the glory for whatever we haul in with the gospel net when we drag it up on the shore of heaven.

6th – We learn that Jesus would have us to breakfast with Him. (verses 12-14)

Jesus always has more to give to us than what we will labor for ourselves, both materially and spiritually. Jesus would have us to know and to understand that He especially desires spiritual communion and fellowship with His people. "Come and have breakfast." "None of the disciples dared ask Him, 'Who are You?'"—knowing that it was the Lord." Even so, this morning the Lord has given to all of us this good breakfast that we have eaten, and He is giving us good spiritual things to feed upon as well, for "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God." These things the resurrected Christ gives to us His people, in order that we should give Him thanks for them together this morning. Let us remember all of the good ways in which He leads us, and guides us, and helps us, and provides for us.