

Cast the Net John 21:1-14

INTRODUCTION

Please turn in your Bibles to **John 21:1-14**. We aren't told how long it has been since they last saw the Lord (cf. **John 20:24-29**) but we are led to believe it has been several days, at least. **During this time their heads must have been spinning. The last few days had been an emotional roller-coaster.** In a matter of a week, they had been lifted up to the giddy heights of Palm Sunday, sent spiraling down into the utter depths of despair on Good Friday, and then been swept up again to the heavens by the glory of the resurrection. The events surrounding the life and death and resurrection of Jesus left the disciples crowded with conflicting emotions: **joy** in the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead, **sadness** because the post-resurrections appearances are always too short, and the **lingering stinging failure** of not having been there when Jesus needed them most. Perhaps due to all the things that had been happening they found it difficult to quiet their mind enough to sleep. They knew the Lord wanted them to go into the world with the gospel, but they didn't really know what they meant or how to start. They needed to "**get away**" for a little while. Their solution? A good night of fishing.

I suspect it was a long night. Though certainly the peace of being out on the lake was helpful, they weren't catching any fish! It had happened before, but it was never a pleasant experience. Good fishermen (and these were "professional fishermen") are supposed to bring home fish! **It was in this very circumstance that the risen Christ appears to them and ministers to His them.** This is His pattern, isn't it? He appears to His own to minister to them. He appeared to Mary and brought her from sorrow to hope; He appeared to two disciples on their way home and replaced their burdened hearts with bursting hearts. He appeared to His disciples (without Thomas and then with him) and removed their doubt and commissioned them to life-long service. The risen Lord taught His disciples (then and now) some important truths. And this pattern continues in this encounter.

Please note with me the following:

I. The risen Lord's _____ is superior to theirs...and ours (21:1-6)

As these men row toward shore Jesus calls to them. He asks the dreaded question, "*Friends, haven't you any fish?*" I suppose it was the equivalent of asking, "*Did you catch anything?*" The text says they answered with a simple "*No*". Wouldn't you like to know the tone of voice that accompanied that "*No*"? **Was there a hint of exhaustion? An edge of irritation? A trace of embarrassment?** Did they shout, whisper, or speak in a normal tone? We don't know. What we do know is that Jesus responds to their "*No*" by telling them to "*Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.*"

A. His wisdom is superior to our areas of

B. His wisdom is superior in times of

C. His wisdom is superior for reaching

Next...

**II. The risen Lord's _____ is sufficient...then
and now (20:7-11)**

A. His provision is sufficient for our daily

B. His provision is sufficient for the times of

C. His provision is sufficient for our salvation

Do not only consider His wisdom and provision but also...

**III. The risen Lord's _____ for them is practical...and
it is for us too (20:12-14)**

A. The Lord _____ about the little things

**B. It's in the little things of life where _____
grows**

CONCLUSION

Before we end our time together in God's word, please allow me to share with you some life lessons that emerge from this biblical account.

1. **The Lord uses _____ places to teach _____ lessons.**
2. **Great confidence or proficiency in a given area of life is not a _____ for complete dependence on Him.**
3. **_____ to Christ can lead to special surprises from the Lord.**
4. **The Lord's leading will always be _____ by the Lord's provision.**
5. **The Lord is willing to _____ and _____ second and third chances.**

Do you feel God has placed you on a shelf because of something you've done? Consider that God may be going to use you to accomplish more in the future than you have in the past.

If such a thought seems far-fetched – then remember this fact: **You serve the God of a second chance.** Never forget that you are serving **the God, not only of a second chance, but countless chances.**