

COME AND DINE

INTRO: John chapter 1 serves as a prelude to the gospel, Christ in eternity. John chapter 21 is a postlude, after Christ's earthly ministry. This chapter gives us in detail the resurrected Lord's third appearance to his disciples, his loving care for his church left on earth to do his will. We are given two miracles with two words:

"Cast your nets" – Preach the Word – "Go..."

"Come and Dine" – I will provide all your need and strengthen you. – "Come..."

I. THE DISCIPLES NEED

- A. The miracle with fish should have reminded them of the miraculous draught of fish at the beginning of Jesus' ministry.
 1. In Luke 5, we read of Jesus calling these fishermen to catch men (vs. 10).
 2. There are similarities in these two miracles:
 3. There are distinct differences:
 4. But the point is that these men are now back to their old occupation.
- B. The disciples' need
 1. These men are scattered: There are only 5 or 7 of the eleven disciples present. And Peter threatens to go away.
 2. These men are discouraged, they have labored all night and have caught nothing.
 3. These men are hungry, having labored all night, they need to be strengthened.
 4. These men are impatient. The Lord had risen and appeared to them. Now what? When is he coming again?
- C. The church's need.
 1. This morning can we see ourselves in those disciples. We too have been given a commission to catch men.
 2. How scattered and divided the church appears, fractured, each going and doing their own thing.
 3. How discouraged we become in our labors, often not seeing much gained for our labors.
 4. How tired and hungry we are, needing substance to continue with our lives and labors.
 5. How impatient we become. It has been almost two thousand years... When is he coming again?

II. THE SUSTANCE GIVEN

- A. The pedagogical question.
 1. "Children have ye any meat?"
 2. The disciples did not know it was Jesus. Perhaps a buyer early in the morning...
 3. No one knows the Lord Jesus unless he reveals himself to them!
 4. The question asked to teach that our labors will not be successful unless the Lord speaks and blesses it.
 5. The disciples must look to Jesus to provide for all their needs.
- B. The wonderful meal prepared for the disciples:
 1. When the disciples come to land they see a wonderful provision: a fire of coals with fish and bread.
 2. Jesus gracious command is "Come and dine."
 3. Jesus himself comes and takes bread and fish and gives it to them.
 4. How this breakfast must have reminder the disciples compassion on the multitudes and the feeding of the 5000.
 5. The resurrected Christ still has a lively interest in and care/provision for his church.
- C. The wonderful meal prepared for us, Christ's church.
 1. The resurrected Lord sees and knows the needs of his saints, and furnishes a table for them.
 2. He graciously commands us to come and dine with him.
 3. What a provision: his broken body and shed blood.
 4. As Jesus took and broke the bread and fish for the multitude, and the disciples, so he has broken his flesh for us.
 5. In faith we must take, eat, remember and believe. His body broken for a complete remission of all our sins.
 6. "Wait on the Lord...he will strengthen thine heart." (Ps. 27:14)

III. THE FELLOWSHIP ENJOYED

- A. Sweet fellowship is enjoyed between Christ and his disciples.
 1. No, Jesus is no longer with them in their daily walk as he was before.
 2. But in his glorified body he appears a third time to them together to strengthen them and cause them to look forward.
 3. Jesus will be with them to the end of the world by his Word and Spirit.
 4. And at the end of time, we will come and dine with Jesus in the new heavens and earth.
- B. Scattered disciples are brought back together and their fellowship strengthened.
 1. It is true that there were that morning only 5-7 of the disciples together.
 2. But this was only the beginning of the gathering of his glorious church, uniting them in faith and obedience.
 3. As we will see in the last part of John 21, where sin destroyed and breaks, restoration brings back again together.
- C. Sweet fellowship is enjoyed between the resurrected Lord and his church.
 1. This morning in the preaching and sacrament, we sit and we enjoy sweet communion with our Lord.
 2. Our souls fly up to heaven where Christ is seated in power and glory, and we gaze and gaze on him.
- D. Sweet fellowship is enjoyed between the saints.
 1. The Greek word "koinonia" is translated by two word English words: 'fellowship' and 'communion'.
 2. When one says, "I am going to take communion", it is a fellowship around the Lord's Table.
 3. It is a fellowship of Christians with the Lord and with one another!
 4. "Some Christians are going to heaven miserably; others are going with the joy of heaven in their hearts & on their faces. What is the difference? The difference is that the latter have learned to come and dine with Jesus and with each other."