

JOHN 21:1-11
October 31, 1993
ROME GEORGIA
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Matt. 28:6-7 " . . . He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. **7** And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, **behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.. "**

The disciples had gone to **Jerusalem a few days earlier** and there they had a variety of experiences,

There was the triumphal entry;

the expectation of the Kingdom;

the betrayal of Jesus by Judas, a trusted friend;

the arrest of Jesus;

the denial by Peter, their leader;

the crucifixion of Jesus;

His Resurrection;

And the events of **John 20**, with Jesus coming to them to correct their "**cardiosclerosis.**" and their subsequent commission to take the gospel to the world,

And now, **John 21:1-2** we find Jesus again appearing to his disciples.

Peter, ever the leader, had a plan - **I'm going fishing**. And the other 6 said **count us in. They went back to what Peter knew best.** He had a family, he needed to work. Evidently he still had his boat because they "entered into THE boat **IMMEDIATELY.**"

John 21:1 After these things Jesus **shewed himself again** to the disciples at the **sea of Tiberias;** and on this wise shewed he *himself*.

2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the *sons* of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

Perhaps it was the same boat that they had used when they rowed out and Jesus preached to the multitudes. (**Matt. 13:2**)

In all likelihood, it was the same boat Peter had been in when Jesus first called him!

Sea of Tiberius = Sea of Galilee (also "Lake of Gennesaret")

Freshwater lake covering 65 sq miles –

by comparison – Allatoona is less than 19 sq. miles.

Lake Lanier is more than three times the size of Allatoona,= 59 sq miles.

It was here that Jesus **walked on the water** and came to His disciples **Matt. 14:22**

It was here that **Jesus stilled the wind and waves with His Word** **Matt. 8:23**

It was here that Jesus **granted his disciples a catch that broke their net.**
Luke 5:1

It was here that Peter caught the **fish with the Tax money in its mouth**
(and paying taxes still stinks unto this day!) **Matt. 17:24**

It was **near here** that Jesus fed the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2
fishes. **Matt. 14:15**

It was here that the demon possessed swine fled and
choked. **LK. 8:26**

The towns of **Chorazin, Bethesda, and Bethsaida** were located **near** this Sea of Galilee -
these were towns wherein Jesus performed some of His greatest miracles.

Here on this **Sea of Tiberias**, where Jesus had called them from their nets just three years
earlier - **here He appears again to find them back at their nets.**

**Peter, the leader. The one who had followed Jesus to his trial, only to deny him with an
oath, Peter leads the others back to the water.**

**Leadership is good - when it leads to the service of the Savior. But when it leads in
other paths - even good and profitable paths - it is not always good.** I do not fault **Peter** for
going fishing. It a good place to sort things out. As we have seen, Jesus had sent them word
by the women that he would meet them in Galilee. And, Jesus knew right where they were.

Fishing was not bad or wrong in and of itself. Peter needed money - he fished. This is not bad.
It is the **timing** that is wrong.

WHITEN DODGE - good when needed - no good when Jesus had other plans. (just as
an aside, I worked for some morally corrupt people at the dealerships. **Eddie** has
likewise found himself working with unsavory characters in the business. But, God
preserved us, and fed our families through our honest labor. We will have a morally
corrupt President in charge of our nation Regardless of who wins. (**Trump won
after I typed this in**)

The disciples LABORED ALL NIGHT - AND CAUGHT NOTHING,

JOHN 15:5 - WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.

v . 4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew
not that it was Jesus.

Morning in Palestine comes SUDDENLY. **Very little twilight in the morning or at
night.**

The **SUN** COMES SUDDENLY.

And, I believe that the **SON** CAME SUDDENLY. (SON OF GOD) Jesus stood on the shore.

"The disciples knew not that it was Him." How often have YOU been in the presence of Jesus and failed to recognize Him?

Have you been in His Presence this week??

He promised never to leave us or forsake us!

I ask again, have you been in His Presence this week? Did you recognize Him? v . 5

Jesus, saith unto them –

Children, have you any food."

"Having any luck"

Have your labors brought forth any fruit?

NO. They labored in vain - for they labored without the Master.

Jesus said previously:

"If any man serve me, let him FOLLOW ME **John 12:26a.**

AND **Paul:** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always **ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD**, forasmuch as you know that your **LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD. I COR. 15:58.**

THEY GOT OFF COURSE ON THEIR FISHING TRIP - JESUS GOT THEM BACK ON COURSE!

V . 6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some.*" So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

CAST THE NET ON THE **RIGHT SIDE.**

Did they recognize Jesus yet - or was it just the voice of authority they obeyed? I don't know. But they obeyed and the catch was more than they could draw in.

Surely their minds must have flashed to a similar situation. **Luke 5:1-6 7-11. Turn here**

Notice - Jesus said let down the "**NETS**". Peter let down the "**NET**". There is always loss when we deviate from the Word of God.

But on this morning, they heard, they obeyed, and they were richly rewarded.

(Last night (*Oct 30, 1993*) , Annette and I were at the **Tennessee Aquarium**. There were many great schools of huge fish. I picture the disciples out there all night, casting their nets. Not even one small fish. But I also can also visualize a school of fish swimming along - **just out of reach of the net** - until Jesus told the fish to swim by the boat!)

Jesus had spoken to the disciples previously and said, "Come ye after me and I will **MAKE** you fishers of men." **Mark 1:17**

It is the POWER of GOD that makes us effective in the service of God! The commission is given to all - but only those who are faithful to the Word of God will bear fruit in his service. No man comes to Jesus except the Father . . . draws him. **Jn. 6:44**

John 21:7 - 8

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, **he put on his outer garment** (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. *(Remember Adam and Eve trying to cover their nakedness?)*

8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

(Movie, Sully, one of the passengers plunged into the icy river and tries to make it to shore. He was fully clothed, he had to turn back. I cannot imagine trying to swim in a robe or Tunic.)

Impetuous Peter.

Others took care of what God had given them, Peter took care to make sure he laid hold of the Savior.

WE likewise would do well to follow Peter's example, to lay hold of the Savior regardless of the activity we are engaged in.

I use to have "Christians" at Bekaert tell me that they could not live the Christian life in the "little blue world" of our facility.

I thought of all the hostile hotspots around the world today where the gospel is flourishing.

The Hotspot that was the middle east at the time of these events.

The catacombs of Rome are filled with the countless followers of Christ who laid hold of Him.

And the streets of Syria, Iraq, Turkey, - all run today with the Blood of those who refuse to turn loose of the Savior.

Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1Ti 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

(On the mirror from my bedroom set that we just took to Rebekah last week. A upheld hand with one raised finger meant to point the way to Jesus.)

Heb 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

