

Living Lent | Day 39

Friends, Haven't You Any Fish?

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

John 21:1-14 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

It is so easy to become consumed by the busyness of each day. Easy to get wrapped up in what you must do (and / or want to do) and miss everything that is taking place around you. So consumed by your to-do-list that you become unaware or insensitive to the brokenness, burdens, fatigue, and disappointment of those around you. It's this very thing that makes serving our neighbor so challenging for the average person.

Yet, Jesus displays and examples for us the character of love and shows us how love serves in real life moments. With all that Jesus had to do, He's yet able to see the struggles of His disciples, the struggle of their fatigue and lack of productivity. Not only does He see it, but He speaks to the struggle of their situation. He expresses firstly, that in the mist of your personal frustration and failure you have a friend in me. Oh, how lighter is the weight of our struggles when we have the presence of a true friend. He communicates that He understands the reason for their personal fatigue and frustration by simply saying, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" In other words, have you accomplished what you set out to achieve?

Jesus isn't physically on the boat. Yet, his communication expresses that I see you, I feel you and I am here for you.

Heavenly Father help me to not be bound and blinded by busyness of life. Help me to have and maintain a servant's heart. A heart that allows me to see the struggles of others. A heart that moves me to be a friend, providing the support and aid that you direct me to give. Father, give me your heart, the heart you exemplified through Jesus. My aim and desire are your image, your likeness. Amen

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ

Dr. John D. Perry II is the Pastor of the Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Waverly, Georgia, a church with a Mission and members of the Body of Christ committed to making disciples for and of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Mt. Sinai seeks to achieve this through encouraging, educating, and exemplifying life in Jesus Christ. Dr. Perry is also the founder of J.D.P. Ministries. His ministry of leading with the purpose of exemplifying Jesus Christ is also foundational to the ministry of Morningstar and no doubt confirms the support of the work there and in his congregation.

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