

# CAST THE NET ON THE RIGHT SIDE

## JOHN 21

Text: John 21:6

### **John 21:6**

<sup>6</sup> And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

Introduction:

I don't know about you, but my heart's desire for Temple Baptist is that we become the kind of church where lost folk can come and find help, a place where the saints can come and find home and hope for their lives. I believe you want the same for the church you call home as well.

Therefore, we need to hear the lessons that are laid out in these verses. I would like to preach on that thought;

How To Change Your Church Forever.

# **1. (V. 1-14) LESSON #1: INVOLVES OUR DEPENDENCE UPON GOD**

## **A. V. 1-3 A Night Of Wasted Activity**

### **1. A Return To The Old Life - Seven of our Lord's**

Disciples made a decision to return to the Sea to find that which they needed. This is a picture of a life lived in the energy of the flesh. They were in Galilee because Jesus had told them that He would meet them there, Matt. 28:10.

They were in the right place, but they were using the wrong methods. Instead of waiting on the Lord to come and give them direction, they began doing things their way, based on what and how they knew to do.

### **2. A Reminder From The New Life - They fished all night and caught nothing! That must have been devastating for Andrew, Peter, James and John. After all, these men were professionals.**

They knew where the fish were and they knew how to catch them. Well, let's just say that things have changed! You see, when these men were called to follow Jesus, they forsook their ships and their nets and

followed Jesus. They have been called to be "fishers of men", Mark 1:17.

(There is a word for us here as well. We need to understand that in this modern day of fancy buildings, large budgets and good crowds, our sufficiency will never be sufficient. When we were saved, we were brought into a new relationship of total dependence upon Jesus Christ.

I personally believe that this is the Lord's will for us not only as individuals, but also as a church. We are to walk in utter dependence upon Jesus, realizing that without Him, we are nothing - John 15:5.

Yet, knowing that in His power, we can do anything - Phil. 4:13.)

B. V. 4-14 A Morning Of Wonderful Abundance -  
When Jesus showed up, things began to change!

1. V. 5 A Challenge From The Master - This question was designed to bring home the reality of their failure. They had fished all night. They were probably tired and hungry and now this fellow shows up asking them if they have any meat. Their short answer is an indication of the reality they felt all too well. At this moment, they felt like failures.)

(III. Aren't you glad the Lord challenges us when we go about things in our own strength?

When He challenges our failed attempts at self-sufficiency, His motive is that of awakening in us a renewed dependence upon Himself.

We need the constant reminder that "the just shall live by faith", Rom.1:17; "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin", Rom. 14:23; and "Without faith it is impossible to please Him", Heb. 11:6.

Our sufficiency will ever fail, His will never fail!)

2. V. 6 A Command From The Master - Jesus tells them to let down their nets on the right side of the boat with the promise that when they do, they will find the fish they have sought all night. When they obeyed the Lord's command, they were rewarded with a huge catch of fish. What they had failed to accomplish with their skill, knowledge and power had been brought to pass in a single moment by their obedience to the will of God.

(III. What a lesson for us in the church today! We have programs, procedures, policies, personalities, and promotions,

We have all the organization and the well-oiled machinery that we can use and still we are not catching fish like we should. What is the problem?

Perhaps it is the same problem that the Disciples had.

Perhaps we are trusting everything instead of Jesus to get the job done. We can never expect to do the Lord's work until we go about it in the Lord's will!

Perhaps the hour has arrived for us to chunk the junk and get back to what works. Perhaps it is time for the modern church to revisit the forsaken avenues of the protracted prayer meeting, old-fashioned preaching, door to door evangelism and genuine love among the brethren.

When we learn to fish the Lord's way we will catch what we are after!)

3. V. 7-14 The Capability Of The Master - Did you notice that in these verses, Jesus took care of every need they had? They were laboring ineffectively for fish and when they arrived on the shore, Jesus had fish and bread prepared. They were attempting to catch a few fish for food probable, Jesus gave them a net filled with fish. They were weary and cold from a night on the lake, Jesus had a fire prepared

to warm and comfort them. The lesson here is unmistakable. Our need is the evidence of God's supply in waiting. When we lack, He has our supply! He is able to meet the need of His people, Phil. 4:19.

(III. In these verses, there are some truths revealed about Jesus that can and will change every individual here as well as your church and mine.

1. V. 1 Jesus is alive from the dead - There is no need to fear the task at hand. Jesus lives and will never leave us nor forsake us, but He ever lives to make intercession for us at the right hand of the Father.

2. V. 6 Jesus is able to control circumstances - He changed in an instant what they had been unable to change in an entire night! Don't give up! Learn to trust the power of our Savior - Matt. 17:20.

3. V. 6 Jesus is able to control success - The success of the Disciples in this instance was entirely in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ.

They would have continued in failure unless He had intervened! When He did, they enjoyed enormous success. Folks, this takes the pressure off of you and me! When we realize that the harvest is the Lord's and our duty is to walk in His will and do what He tells us to, we come to recognize that He is also responsible for

any measure of success that is obtained. My job is to obey. The duty of our churches is to obey. Success is in the hands of the Lord!

4. V. 4 Jesus is able to direct from afar - Jesus was on the shore, the Disciples were in a boat out on the sea, still the Lord was able to direct them and intervene on their behalf. What a lesson for the church! While we sail the stormy seas of life, Jesus is seated in Heaven. From that vantage point, He is able to move in our circumstances, He is able to meet our needs, He is able to direct our lives and He is able to command His churches. He is not out of touch, He is in absolute control!

5. V. 6 Jesus is able to empower His people - Jesus was able to accomplish in a moment that which they could not do in an entire night of self-effort. So it is in the life of His church! If we try to do these things in our own power, we will surely fail, but if we walk in the will of God, humble seeking His face and looking to His powerful hand to get the job done, then we cannot fail!

6. V. 10-11 Jesus is able to supply all the needs of His people - When the Disciples

reached the shore, they found that their labor had been in vain. Their attempts at self-sufficiency has been wasted. When they came face to face with Jesus, they found that He had everything they needed already ready and waiting for them.

Lesson #1: Involves Our Dependence Upon God

## **2. (V. 15-17) LESSON #2: INVOLVES OUR DUTY BEFORE GOD**

A. V. 15-17 Our Primary Duty -Three times, the Disciple who denied the Lord is called upon to reaffirm his love for Jesus.

B. V. 15-17 Our Perpetual Duty - Genuine love for Jesus is manifested in what way? Is it enough for me to say, "I love the Lord!"? Is it enough for our churches to say, "Man, we really love Jesus here!"? No! True love for the Lord always manifests itself in obedience to His commandments, John 14:15!

In these three verses, we are shown the perpetual duty of the church.

1. To Supply The Saints - Peter is told to feed "my lambs", v. 15, these are the "little ones." Then, he is told to feed "my



sheep.", v. 16. These would be those who are more mature.

2. To Support The Saints - In verse 16, the word "feed" literally means "to tend, or to keep sheep."

Peter is told that the sheep need more than food. They are to be looked after and all their needs are to be supplied.

1. Lesson #1: Involves Our Dependence Upon God

2. Lesson #2: Involves Our Duty Before God

### **3. V. 18-22 LESSON #3: INVOLVES OUR DEVOTION TO GOD**

A. V. 18 A Word About Reality - Peter is reminded that obedience to Jesus carries with it a price.

Paul plainly tells us that all who live for the Lord can expect to be persecuted, 2 Tim. 3:12. The reality is that there is a price to pay, but in the end, the payoff is worth the price!

B. V. 19 A Word About The Requirement - Peter's original call is reaffirmed, Matt. 4:18-19, and the Apostle is restored to his office.

In this, we are reminded that Jesus has certain expectations concerning our walk with Him. It is simple, the requirements are the same for every person in this building tonight, Matt. 16:24.

When we genuinely deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus, we will see our lives, our attitudes, or effectiveness and our churches changed forever. Again, often the price is high, but the payoff is priceless!

C. V. 20-22 A Word About Rivalry - When Peter is told about his ultimate demise, he asks Jesus about John. It is as if there is some sort of rivalry in the mind of Peter with John. Jesus responds by telling Peter to tend to his own life and the Lord will take care of John. What a lesson for the church!

Conc:

After this impromptu breakfast meeting, the Disciples were never the same. Peter became a powerhouse for Jesus, the others served with distinction and glorified God in their lives and ultimately by their deaths. Why the change? I think perhaps the answer lies in the fact that they learned some lessons that were never forgotten that morning. Some lessons that they took to heart and that were allowed to work in their lives.