

Daily Devotional: 3/19/2020

John 21:3-6, 12 3 "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. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6 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. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

As this scene unfolds, the disciples were back at the Sea of Tiberias fishing. Having been with Jesus during the three years of His ministry on earth, it must have been tough for them to witness Jesus' crucifixion, especially Peter who had turned his back and denied his master three times.

Doubtless, the disciples had never needed to worry about funds to support their ministry when Jesus was with them, and now they have been asked to go forward and preach the gospel throughout the world. Instead, here they are reverting to the only thing that most of them had any faith in knowing how to do: fishing. Their world has been turned upside down, and they were left on their own to walk out their faith and to trust God. But did they—could they?

Have you ever been in a similar situation, or perhaps you are in one now during these uncertain times, where you are challenged to take a step further in serving God and to trust Him to provide for you? The passage goes on to tell us that not only did Jesus show up, He told the disciples where to cast their nets and they caught an enormous amount of fish. Not only that, but Jesus Himself came to prepare and share a breakfast meal with them.

As believers, we have been entrusted with the ministry and word of reconciliation just like the disciples who were asked to go forth and preach the gospel. Therefore, may we be encouraged by the fact that Jesus showed up when the disciples most needed Him and provided for their needs, and as He has done for the disciples in the past, He will do the same for us because He is a faithful God who knows our needs and provides for them. Likewise, He promises us His presence during our times of uncertainty.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, be with us in these times of stress and uncertainty. Help us to leave the vessel of worry that constricts and challenges us. In this time of isolation and detachment from family and friends, neighbors and even strangers, allow us to see you on the shoreline of hope, a place where we who are in doubt can taste the reassurance that you bring through the care of your presence. Rekindle the fire of faith and joy in you that lifts us out of troubled waters and warms our very souls. It is to you that we pray in confidence. Amen.