

*Déjà vu!*I. **INTRO:**

- A. I saw a lady hitch-hiking on the 15 freeway on-ramp with a sign that simply read, *North!*
1. In Jn.21 the disciples aren't sure where to turn...they just head "north".
- B. So many Christians think that once they have "repented of their sin, believed on Christ, & have the assurance of their salvation...that's it!"
1. **Wrong!** That's just the beginning.
  2. Paul said it this way, we were "created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."
    - a) Oh, so though we were not saved **by** our good works; we have been saved **for** good works! **Yep!**
    - b) **Our keynote/central theme in this chapter is service!**
  3. Also the very important matter of Jesus **restoring Peter** (next week).
- C. Ever say, "now what?" - maybe you've experienced a lull in business; or job pressures have you in knots; you feel trapped in a relationship; or you start day dreaming of the days gone by.
1. Peter & the boys are probably asking, "now what?" - **Is Rome coming after us?** Jesus said, "if the world persecutes Me, expect it to persecute you!"
- D. Our scene opens on the Sea of Galilee (a.k.a. Lake of Gennesaret/from OT *Kinneret*(harp shape), Sea of Tiberias). [682' below sea level; 13miles long x 8m. wide]
1. **Show:** a few pic's of Galilee in the very area were talking about this morning.

II. **FISHERMEN ON THE SEA! (1-3)**

- A. **FAILURE!** (1-3)
- B. (1-3) It was absolutely **not wrong** for them to go back to Galilee. **How do I know?** Jesus told them to meet them there! - Mt.28:10 **Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."**
1. So Galilee was the rendezvous point!

- C. Ok, they were in the **right place**, but why did they take up their **old work** again?
1. **Maybe** thought they'd never see Him again. **Maybe** thought they'd glorify them best with what they knew. **Maybe** they were impatient. **Maybe** they heard the fishing was good? **Maybe** they were being diligent till He came? **Maybe** they gave up on Him meeting them, so they went back to their old work.
  2. I don't think it was **sinful...just negligent** (or *careless, irresponsible, thoughtless?*)
    - a) Before they met Jesus, they had a **vocation**. Now they had more than that; they had a **calling**. - *But they were turning a deaf ear to that calling.*
    - b) They were disillusioned, confused, maybe even feeling sorry for themselves.
      - (1) Ever been there? - Are you standing on a similar shore right now?
      - (2) Maybe you're casting nets in some quiet cove, away from the mainstream God has called **you** to?
        - (a) If so, maybe you need a visit from Jesus this morning! :)
- D. What we do know is that they were **unsuccessful**...as all work must be, that is done apart from Christ & His command.
1. **"Apart from Me you can do nothing!"** Jn.15:5
  2. **How futile our lives can be when Christ is left out!**
    - a) **Are your nets coming up empty? - Are you burning the midnight oil & getting nothing but burned out?** Maybe the Lord is calling you from the shore. **If so**, take a minute to listen. He might lead you to the catch of a lifetime!<sup>1</sup>
- E. Adoniram Judson said, "The motto of every missionary, whether preacher, printer, or schoolmaster, ought to be **Devoted for life.**"

### III. **FISHERMEN ON THE SHORE! (4-14)**

- A. **COMMISSION & PROMISE OF BLESSING!** (4-6a)
- B. The Master was watching, & His inquiry was followed by His **commission & promise of blessing**.
- C. **FAITHFULNESS!** (6b-8)
- D. **Obedience** was honored by *immediate results*, & the disciples recognized **who** was the source of their success! [Title: **Déjà vu** (French, literally 'already seen')]

<sup>1</sup> Chuck Swindoll; The Lamb of God ; pg.102

- E. (6b-8) When Jesus takes charge, failure is turned into success; & the diff was only 7 ½’.
1. You never know how close you are to victory, so **admit your failure** (have you nay food? NO!) & **obey** what He tells you to do (so they cast their net on the other side).
    - a) He never fails!
- F. (4-7) Jesus stands on the shore in the morning haze to comfort the hearts of discouraged workers, telling them where to cast their net & revealing the certainty of His help!
- G. (7) Did the miraculous catch of fish remind Peter of his call to service?
1. Read Lk.5:1-11
  2. What are the similarities? - Both were on the shore of Galilee; both in the same area of the shoreline; both took place in the early morning; both hone in on Peter’s response; both were because of Jesus’ word they let down there net; both fished all night & got skunk’d.
  3. What are the differences? - 2nd time *right side* (not just out into the deep); 1st time Jesus told them to launch out & let down their nets (2nd time, they decided to go out on their own); 1st time Peter’s response “*depart from me*” (2nd time Peter swam to him)
  4. So both at the beg & end of Peter’s calling, He is called to **Follow Jesus!**
    - a) Follow Me - run along behind Me, that is all. Follow in my steps. Leave your old life behind. Remain completely surrendered.
      - (1) It’s being dragged out of your life of **security** & dragged into a life of **insecurity**. Yet, really fully secure as you trust in Him!
- H. The Lord, so sensitive, stages the entire scene just for Peter.
1. What do you do when you’ve failed a friend? You go to him.
  2. He throws himself into the water & swims the fastest **100-yard freestyle** that would make Michael Phelps proud,...in order to reach the Savior!
- I. **A FORECAST OF OUR FUTURE!** (9-14)
- J. Maybe this provides a beautiful picture of our future after our death?<sup>2</sup>
1. The plunge into the cold dividing water. The welcome on the other shore. The discovery that Christ had expected & prepared. The feast w/the Lord Himself as He girds Himself to minister.

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<sup>2</sup> F.B.Meyer: Bible Commentary; pg.478

- K. Jesus now invites all 7 to breakfast & personally serves them.
1. Not much has changed from His *earthly* ministry to His *heavenly* one.
- L. Maybe this is what Jesus meant in His parable in Lk.12:37 **Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.**
1. Maybe this was a *precursor* to the **marriage supper of the Lamb?** Rev.19:9
- M. (9) **Wet & shivering, Peter reaches the shore.** His eyes look down to *the warm charcoal fire.* **Did the fire of coals remind Peter of his denials?** (18:18)
1. Maybe now he's *tentative & uncertain.* He doesn't say anything. **Jesus breaks the ice in vs.10,12** (esp.15 where he seems to take Pete aside for complete restoration).
- N. **Fish Fry** - Maybe the Catholics have something here regarding *Fish* during Lent? :)
- O. (11) **So why 153?**
1. There have been all kinds of allegorical and symbolic interpretations.
    - a) The **ancients** believed there were **153 kinds of fish**, thus representing the gospel to include all persons, & that the net of the kingdom would be strong enough to hold all w/o breaking.
    - b) I've also heard the letters of 1 of the names of God added up = 153.
  2. But *probably* John mentioned the number as a matter of historical detail. With a group of men fishing, the common procedure would be for them to **count the fish** they caught and **then divide them equally** among the fishermen.
- P. (12) **Come & dine!** (kjv)
1. It's an invitation to **holy nearness to Jesus.**
    - a) Invited to the same table; same meat; sit side by side our Savior; maybe even lean our head on his chest.
    - b) It's being brought into His banqueting-house & gives us a vision of **true union** with Jesus.
  2. It's also an invitation to **enjoy fellowship with the saints.**
    - a) Christians will differ on a variety of points, but we all have 1 spiritual appetite.
    - b) **And if we cannot all feel alike, we can all feed alike on The Bread of Life sent down from heaven.**
    - c) **At the table of fellowship with Jesus we are one bread & one cup!**

- Q. **Saint**, no matter how far you've drifted, Jesus is always there on the shore, waiting for you to return. **Waiting** with a comforting fire, warm food, & an affirming arm to put around your shoulder!<sup>3</sup>
- R. Remember, they momentarily ignored their **calling**.
1. Jesus doesn't call everyone **away from** their *vocation*!
  2. But to be involved in a vocation **without a calling** is to settle for a life of **empty nets!** [Remember your **calling**, *in the midst of* your **vocation!!!**]
  3. Don't just head **North**...Head for your calling!
- S. When **Julius Caesar** landed on the shores of **Britain** with his Roman legions, he took a bold and decisive step to ensure the success of his military venture. Ordering his men to march to the edge of **the Cliffs of Dover**, he commanded them to look down at the water below. To their amazement, they saw **every ship** in which they had crossed the channel engulfed **in flames**. **Caesar had deliberately cut off any possibility of retreat**. Now that his soldiers were unable to return to the continent, there was nothing left for them to do but to **advance** and **conquer**! And that is exactly what they did.
1. **Prayer:** Lord, help us to burn our *boats of security* behind us.  
May we **advance** into our world & **conquer** this world, **not with our sword**,  
**but with our love**.

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<sup>3</sup> Ken Gire; Intimate Moments with the Savior; pg.143