

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

May 11, 2022

Due to the SPRC Committee meeting last week, no notes are available from May 4, 2022.

### John 21: 2 - 14

**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. **3** Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. **4** But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. **5** Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. **6** 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. **7** Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. **8** And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. **9** As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. **10** Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. **11** Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. **12** Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. **13** Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. **14** This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

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Pastor Tom began our lesson tonight with details from verse 2.

## Verse 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.*

\*Of the then eleven disciples, John notes that 7 of them were at this place. This leads us to assume there were 2 on the road to Emmaus and the whereabouts of the other 2 is unknown. John, one of the sons of Zebedee and narrator of this Gospel account, gives particular attention to this numerical detail of how many were participating at this moment. God needed John to be precise on this point. Perhaps to remind us about what can happen when the patriarch or matriarch of a family passes away - more often than not, the family tends to disperse rather than stay close. For good or bad? We are not certain but Jesus did tell His disciples to GO and tell the world...

## Verse 3

*Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.*

\*So Peter speaks up and says, 'I'm going fishing!' and the other 6 go along with him. Peter was going back to what he knew before Jesus called him into the ministry. In a good light, this could mean he was looking for something familiar to anchor himself to.

\*As a negative action, Peter was reverting back to an old lifestyle before knowing who Jesus was. Sometimes this happens to us when the devil gets in our heads and plants the thought that we don't have a purpose anymore or what am I even doing this for. Pastors(and others) often question their impact on people.

\*Catching nothing reflects the first time the disciples met Jesus. Possibly the remind to us is the if we go backwards in our walk, we will 'catch nothing' as well

\*Many times recently we as a church have been called to the altar for prayer but few people have gone to the altar answering Pastor Tom's invitation to accept Jesus and His salvation at the altar.

[Mark 5 is the account of when Jesus called Peter and his brother as well as James and John. Their nets had come up empty that night also! Read verse 10 about what Jesus said about Peter.]

### **Verses 4 and 5**

*But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.*

\*Just as we may have heard after a day of fishing somewhere, Jesus calls out, 'Did you catch anything?' Refer again to Mark 5.

### **Verse 6**

*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.*

\*Jesus, like in Mark 5, told the disciples/fishermen what to do. Casting on the 'right side' could mean more than just a physical position in relation to the boat's front. It could mean the right or wrong side of an issue that we take a stand on.

Pastor Tom referred us to Jeremiah 23:1, 4 and 9

*1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord....4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord....9 Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the Lord, and because of the words of his holiness.*

\*Pastors have an awesome responsibility to direct their sheep on the 'right side' of issues. And the theme throughout the Bible is: To whom much is given, much is required. And there is a difference between being called and being qualified as a church leader.

## Verse 7

*Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.*

\*John was the very first one of this group to acknowledge out loud who Jesus was at this point. When Peter heard John, he put on his coat and jumped in the water. The fact that he is described as 'naked' baffled some of us. Was he embarrassed, like Adam and Eve in the Garden when God found them after they ate the fruit? Some translations explain that Peter had taken off his coat so he could work.

## Verse 8, 9, 10 and 11

*And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. 9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. 10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. 11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.*

\*Reading closely we learn that the fishermen had been about 300 feet from shore. They were dragging a net full of fish, big fish! And Jesus already had brought bread and had a fire going with fish already cooking on the coals. Jesus invites them to bring their catch up on land so Peter does this without even breaking the net.

Discussion followed as to the significance of the exact number of fish, 153. Was this a big amount of fish or were they big fish so that 153 would test the strength of the net? Regardless, they probably were not little minnows. Pastor Tom foreshadowed what would occur after Peter preached on Pentecost - 3000 people became new believers. What would happen at Mt. Olive if even just 20 people came to the altar at one time? We'd be filled with awe and excitement! God was showing Peter that he had no idea what can happen when you trust me. (More on that later in John 21)  
[Also refer to Mark 5:10]

## Verse 12

*Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.*

\*God did something amazing in having Jesus at the shore at that time and causing the 'big catch' to happen again. This could have been the first time some of these disciples had seen the Resurrected Jesus.

\*And when the Lord does something amazing, the devil gets really upset and tries to downplay or distort the event. Pastor Tom reminded us not to downplay the awesomeness of having Pastor Daryl appointed to Mt. Olive. It is truly an amazing God Thing!

## Verse 13

*Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.*

\*Jesus is sharing the food like He did in the Upper Room, something familiar to the men there. There is a cleansing that takes place only at the Communion Table. Discussion followed on the meaningfulness of Breaking Bread: Too often in the Catholic Church? Becomes a ritual. Or if Communion is announced in advance in our church, there is often less attendance on that Sunday.

\*Pastor Jon shared some symbolism in the food that Jesus shared at this humble meal:

- Bread = the body of Christ - I am the Bread of Life
- Fish = the secret sign of early Christian Churches
- No wine = because His blood had already been poured out at Calvary.

## Verse 14

*This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.*

\*This was the third time Jesus had shown Himself to the men after His resurrection. (See John 20: 19 and 26)

\*The number 3 has significance in the Bible often. As does the number 7. 3 is a symbol of perfection or completion. 7 symbolizes spiritual perfection or completion. Even the number 153 is important as it represents the number of species of fish at that time. This can be a sign of the great commission to out to all the world depending upon Jesus to bring the harvest (catch). The 39 stripes (wounds) on Jesus' back during His torture can relate to the 39 classifications of diseases. And Isaiah reminds us that - "By His stripes we are healed."

Study of numbers in the Bible is very interesting. Even by looking at all the Chapter 3 Verse 16 in all the New Testament Books you can get a collective, meaningful thought.

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Go in peace, go in joy, go in love!

May the Lord watch between me and thee  
While we are absent one from the other.

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