

1 Casting Our Nets

- . . . on the other side of the boat.

2 Gone Fishing

- After Jesus rose from the dead, he instructed his disciples to go to Galilee and there he would meet them.
- Waiting for Jesus to appear, Peter went fishing along with Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee [James & John], and two unnamed disciples.
- As was the custom, they fished at night but catch nothing.
- Early the next morning, they noticed a stranger on the shore who called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” (John 21:5 NIV)
- Then this stranger calls out to them, “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.” (John 21:6 NIV)
- Both John & Peter realizing that nothing like this could happen without the LORD, so Peter jumped overboard and ran to Jesus’ side.

3 It’s a Miracle

- So what is the point of this story and what lesson can we learn from it?
 - Was Jesus playing a joke on the disciples?
 - Was he rebuking them for returning to their former livelihood?
 - Was he suggesting that God works in mysterious ways and they were just inches away from a holy hotspot?
 - Or was he reinforcing an important principle—a principle so important that without it they would be completely unfruitful in life and in ministry?

4 Another Miraculous Catch

- In the Gospel of Luke (Luke 5:1–10), Jesus was teaching off shore in a boat to the crowds.
- After he finished teaching, Jesus asked Peter, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”
- When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.
- When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”

5 Water into Wine

- In the Gospel of John (John 2:5–10), Jesus was approached by his mother to help with a problem. He was reluctant but conceded.
- His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

- Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”
- “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

6 Two Drachma Tax

- Adult Jewish males throughout the Empire paid an annual two-drachma tax for the upkeep of the Temple.
- To pay the tax, Jesus told Peter, “go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin.” (Matt 17:25–27)
- Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”

7 The 10 Lepers

- Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.
- As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him.
- They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”
- When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. (Luke 17:10–14 NIV)

8 The Man Born Blind

- “How then were your eyes opened?” they demanded.
- He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes.”
- “He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” (John 9:10–11 NIV)

9 Healing a Withered Hand

- In a synagogue Jesus entered, a man was there with a withered hand.
- Being it was unlawful to work on the Sabbath, they watched to see if Jesus would cure him.
- He then told the man to stretch out his hand, and as he did so, his hand was restored.

10 Interpretation

- What is the principle at work here in all these miracles?
 - If we obey and follow Jesus’ instruction,
 - we will see miracles.
 - we will see God’s Kingdom manifested in power.
 - we will receive so many blessings that we’ll think we can’t hold them all.
- Therefore, let us listen to God’s spokesman and do what he tells us to do.

11 Old Testament Miracles

12 The Last Lesson

- After they had finished their Passover Meal, [Jesus] poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (John 13:5 NIV)
- Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. (John 13:14 NIV)
- I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13:15-17 NIV)

13 Sign of Greatness

- According to Jesus, the sign of greatness is being a servant to all.
- However, this is counter intuitive to not only our flesh but our culture as well—where success is defined as autonomy, affluence, and influence over others.
- Many hope that this will give them peace and fulfillment, but in reality it doesn't.
- If we want to be blessed and fulfilled, we must listen to Jesus and do what he says. No matter if it doesn't seem to agree to the worldly wisdom around us.

14 Question

- If we have been fishing all night and haven't caught any fish, shouldn't we be listening for advice?
- The disciples didn't even know it was Jesus calling out to them until they saw the results.
- Could it be that Jesus is calling out to us right now.
- “Friends, haven't you any fish?”
- If the honest answer is “No,” shouldn't we consider this . . . and throw our nets on the other side of the boat?

15 Casting Our Nets

- What casting our nets might look like . . .
 - When people hurt our feelings, we forgive and forget.
 - Pray for our enemies and do good to them when they are in need.
 - Stop judging people and calling people who disagree with us stupid or idiotic.
 - Stop the drama and don't think more of ourselves than we should. Embrace correction, godly criticism, and advice.
 - Stop showing favoritism only to our friends and instead be considerate and helpful to everyone.
 - Stop using our income on our wants and selfish desires, instead be a generous and cheerful giver.

- Become a faithful servant who avoids the “lime light” and is content to do their work behind the scenes.

16 Conclusion

- Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” (Mark 9:7 NIV)
- The words I [Jesus] have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. (John 6:63 NIV)
- “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matt 4:4 NIV)
- Then Jesus said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Mark 4:9 NIV)