

MIRACLES OF JESUS

THE BLESSING OF OBEDIENCE - JOHN 21:1-14

- A. Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (1-3)
1. Jesus continued to meet with His disciples (1), *After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way.*
 - a. The Sea of Tiberias is the Roman name for the Sea of Galilee.
 - b. An angel promised that Jesus would meet the disciples in Galilee, Matthew 28:7, *Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.*
 - c. Jesus would teach them about the kingdom of God, Acts 1:3, *He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*
 2. A number of disciples were together and Peter decided to go fishing (2-3)
 - a. The disciples at the Sea of Tiberias (2), *Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together.*
 - 1) They included Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, and the sons of Zebedee (James and John), and two unnamed disciples.
 - 2) It seemed they were unsure what they were to do after a tumultuous week.
 - a) The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem with the hope of a new kingdom.
 - b) Betrayal by a trusted friend, Judas.
 - c) Denial of Jesus by Peter
 - d) Crucifixion of Jesus
 - e) Visits by our risen Lord Jesus.
 - 3) Jesus told them to go to a mountain in Galilee but Peter went to the water where he was comfortable.
 - b. The disciples had a bad night fishing, (3), *Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*
 - 1) Was Peter rejecting Jesus' call on his life because of his denial of Jesus?
 - a) He probably decided to occupy his time with productive work.
 - b) Fishing was his profession and he did have a family to feed.
 - 2) The other disciples followed Peter but they had no success in catching fish.
 - 3) Carson, *They are coming to grips with the resurrection, but they still have not learned the profound truth that apart from Christ they can do nothing.*
- B. Jesus gave them a ministry lesson (4-6),
1. Jesus was not recognized by the disciples as He stood on the shore (4), *Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.*
 - a. They did not recognize Him possibly because of the distance from shore or lack of light.
 - b. They must have been tired after fishing all night.
 - c. We will soon see that Jesus is now seen by faith not just by sight.
 2. Jesus was concerned about their night's work (5-6), *Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.*
 - a. He asked them if they had any fish and they said no.
 - 1) Literally, Jesus called them little children.
 - 2) It can mean friends.
 - b. He told them to cast the net on the right side of the boat.

- c. They obeyed and took in an amazing quantity of fish. Maybe they remember when Jesus gave them a miraculous catch of fish when Jesus called them to follow Him, Luke 5:4-10, *And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."*
3. Obedience brings blessing.
 - a. They did not know who was telling them to change their fishing methods.
 - b. They had labored all night in the same area.
 - c. They were professional fishermen who know how to fish.
 - d. Yet, they obeyed and were blessed.
 - e. Thomas Constable, *Obedience to Jesus is the key to supernatural success.*
 4. New method of serving
 - a. Former miracles had come through the direct actions of Jesus but this miracle came through the working of Jesus in them.
 - b. William Taylor, *The apostles recognized their miracles were wrought not by their own power or holiness, but by Him whom the Jews had crucified, but whom God had raised up.*
- C. Jesus was recognized and the disciples headed to shore to be with Him (7-8), ***That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.***
1. John recognized that the man on shore was Jesus.
 - a. It may be that John remembered Jesus' earlier miracle mentioned a few moments ago in Luke 5.
 - b. John was the first to realize the significance of the grave clothes, John 20:28-29, *Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.*
 - c. William Taylor, *When our hearts burn within us as we study the sacred Scriptures; when our spirits are soothed, refreshed, inspired, and strengthened as we turn in prayer to God; when the words which we speak in His name are followed by results as astonishing to ourselves as they are to those who behold them, then we too may say with John, 'It is the Lord,' and rejoice in the assurance that He is in the midst of us indeed.*
 2. Peter swam to shore to meet Jesus.
 3. The other disciples came to shore with the catch.
- D. Jesus hosted the disciples with breakfast (9-14)
1. Jesus prepared a meal for the disciples (9-11), ***When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn.***
 - a. He asked them to bring some of the fish that had just been caught.
 - b. Peter went aboard the boat and hauled the net ashore.
 - c. There was large catch of 153 large fish in the unbroken net.
 - d. What Jesus commands us to do, there will be success.
 - 1) We are to be fishers of men.
 - 2) Matthew 28:19-20, *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

2. Jesus told them to come and have breakfast (12-13), *Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.*
 - a. The disciples knew He was the Lord.
 - 1) William Taylor, *He is the same Jesus that He was before the crucifixion, and yet a marvelous change has passed upon Him, and everything about Him seems to be transfigured. His body had still upon it the marks of the spear gash and the nails; He could eat the broiled fish and the honeycomb which the disciples set before Him...But then on the other hand, He appeared and disappeared with mysterious suddenness...There is a mysterious awfulness about His Person which first inspires fear, and then claims adoration.*
 - 2) They had recognized Jesus in their obedient service. William Taylor, *If, therefore, we desire the presence of Christ with us, let us obey Him, and let us not expect Him in visible form; but let us be content to recognize Him through the effects which He produces.*
 - 3) 1 John 2:3, *And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.*
 - b. Jesus gave them the bread and the fish.
 - 1) They were reliable witnesses to Jesus' resurrection, Acts 10:39-41, *And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.*
 - 2) The result of serving the Lord faithfully is that He will reward us with a feast when the work is done.
 - 3) Communion is a special time when we have the special presence of our Lord in our midst as He reminds us of His body and blood sacrificed for us.
3. This is the third time Jesus revealed Himself to disciples after His resurrection (14), *This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.*
 - a. John meant that this was the third appearance by Jesus to the disciples in the Gospel of John.
 - b. The others
 - 1) John 20:19, *On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."*
 - 2) John 20:26-27, *Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."*

CONCLUSION

- A. Jesus is made known to us as we obey His commands.
- B. There will be spiritual success when we do what Jesus commands.
- C. Jesus fellowships with us when we do what He commands.