

Living on the Other Side of the Boat

John 21:1-14

I. Becoming sensitized to miracles

- A. It was hard to see Jesus (John 21:4). The disciples were probably dragging their nets on the left side. They had been fishing all night and had caught nothing.
- B. Life with Jesus already had sensitized them to responding in faith.
 - 1. Peter did the math more quickly this time than other times (Luke 5:4-11; Matthew 14:25-31).
 - 2. John discerned. Peter started swimming. No coincidences pondered here (John 21:7).

II. Decisions we make to live on the other side of the boat

- A. “Stop doubting and believe” (Thomas, John 20:26-29).
- B. Daring to live without condemnation (The adulterous woman, John 8:10-11; Romans 8:1)
- C. Living from mercy and a softened heart (The thief on the cross, Luke 23:39-43)
- D. Giving and forgiving (Luke 6:37-38)

III. When they threw the net on the other side of the boat, it wasn’t so much different from what they had done before. But now, there was faith.

- A. Don’t stop throwing your net out (Matthew 7:7-8).
- B. If you are walking in faith, you can hear what God says when you need to make a change.
- C. Living on the other side of the boat is the lifestyle of every Christian—uncomfortable, but wonderful. “It is the Lord” (John 21:7, 10-12)!

IV. When God radically provides, He also aims to change our character (E.g., Paul and Peter).

- A. God told Paul he was living on the wrong side of the boat (Acts 9:3-6).
- B. In response, Paul (like Peter) quickly “threw himself into the water.”
 - 1. He experienced a miracle (Acts 9:17-19).
 - 2. He completely repented (Acts 9:20-22).
 - 3. Paul had been secretly taking notes from the teachings of the great Christian witnesses he had persecuted (Stephen, Acts 7).
- C. Peter threw himself into the water to greet the Lord.
 - 1. But this story was not just about 153 fat fish and breakfast with Jesus.
 - 2. Jesus came to help Peter fully repent and be reinstated (John 21:15-24).
- D. And God’s grace toward Paul and Peter “was not without effect” (I Cor. 15:10).

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