

# Breakfast by the Sea

John 21:1-14

Chapter 21 serves as an epilogue to the Gospel of John. The chapter begins with Jesus sharing breakfast with his disciples at the Sea of Galilee. We learn that ***Great blessing comes when we admit our failure and inability and follow God's instructions.***

John recorded still another post-resurrection appearance of Jesus where he revealed something new about himself to his disciples (1).

Jesus had previously told his disciples to return to Galilee and that he would meet them there (Matthew 28:7; Mark 14:28; 16:7).

John identified seven disciples present at this occasion (2). They included Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanel, James, and John. Based on geographic location and occupation, the two unnamed disciples may have been Andrew and Philip.

Peter decides to go fishing and the other men join him (3). Some believe that Peter was discouraged by his denial of Jesus and was returning to his former vocation. Others believe Peter was trying to stay active while waiting for Jesus. Still others believe Peter was trying to make money to provide for his family. Regardless of the reason, Jesus does not rebuke the men for going fishing.

The disciples' failure to catch any fish set the stage for Jesus' miracle that followed.

As dawn was breaking, Jesus appeared on the shore, though the disciples did not know it was him (4).

Jesus asked a question that assumed a negative answer (5). The disciples needed to admit their failure in order to see that what followed would be Jesus' work and not theirs.

Jesus instructed them to throw their nets out on the other side of the boat (6). This request would seem foolish to seasoned fishermen. Despite not knowing who gave the instruction, they obeyed. They had trouble managing the results of their success because their catch was so great. Obedience to Jesus' command was the key to supernatural success.

John realized it was Jesus before Peter did (7). Peter trusted John's instincts and jumped into the water and headed for shore.

Fishermen typically wore light undergarments or long t-shirts when working. Since greeting was a religious act which required a person to be fully clothed, Peter put on his outer garment before jumping into the water.

The other disciples acted more calmly and brought the boat and fish to shore (8).

While the disciples struggled with the catch, Jesus was already preparing breakfast (9). John noted Jesus prepared a charcoal fire which sets the stage for a lesson he was going to teach the disciples, and especially Peter.

Even though Jesus already had one fish on the fire, he invites the disciples to bring more fish (10). Rather than multiplying the food miraculously, he would use the product of their labor.

John again demonstrated he was an eyewitness by noting the size and quantity of the fish (11).

Jesus acted as their host and invited them to eat (12). The disciples' reluctance to ask Jesus his identity showed that the resurrection was still a challenge to their faith.

Jesus provided for their physical needs just as he had done on a previous occasion (13).

John concludes by explaining that this was the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection (14).

### **Principles to Practice**

Admitting our failure and inability prepares us to receive God's strength and provision.

Great blessing comes to our efforts when we follow God's instructions.