

Text: John 21: 1 - 11

**21** After these things [the first and second appearances were in the upper room Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and this is the way he appeared.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, I am going fishing. They replied, We will go with you. They went out together, and boarded a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> But when the morning dawned, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye caught any fish? They answered him, No.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved [John] said to Peter, It is the Lord. When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his fisher's coat, (for he was naked,) and jumped into the sea.

<sup>8</sup> And the other disciples came in their little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

<sup>9</sup> As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

Opening Hymn No. 367  
*Rescue The Perishing*

Closing Hymn No. 255  
*I Cannot Tell Why*

## INTRO

### The 40 day Holdover (Resurrection to Ascensión)

Appeared 12x to the believers:

Mary, Peter, 2 men on the road to Emmaeus, 2x in the upper room ... to 500, at the Sea of Galilee

Why did Jesus hold over?

❶ To encourage the apostles. To show them he was alive and that they were on the winning side of history.

❷ To turn their discouragement into a determination to go out into the world from their hiding place in the upper room where they closed in for fear of the Jews and to be ready and willing for the Day of Pentecost at Day 50.

❸ To show that he was not a victim but a willing sacrifice. He was victorious as the risen Savior. Victorious over death . . . . over sin . . . over Satan.

- ④ To convince the disciples of His undiminished love and tender regard.
- ⑤ To give them joy “for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10
  - Illus: the apparent drudgery of Xn Service, but infused with joy
  - Quote: “Joy is the serious business of heaven.” C.S. Lewis
- ⑥ To breathe on them the H.S. John 20:22
- ⑦ To teach them the principles of soul winning.

To teach them principles of soul winning

So we come to our sermon from John 21 which is Jesus’ teaching on soul willing

Perfect setting b/c most of the men were fishermen and Jesus had told them to give up their profession to follow Him and become fishers of men.

BY DEFINITION, YOU CANNOT BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS AND NOT BE A SOULWINNER.

John 21 is AN OBJECT LESSION

📖 The 153 great fishes were not for eating because in v. 9 Jesus had already prepared their meal:

“As soon as they were come to land they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and fish laid thereon, and bread”

ILLUS: How long does it take to clean and cook a fish.

ILLUS: Cf. Tsugi Fish Market in Tokyo – 1/6 fish in the world pass through it daily

📖 The 153 great fish were to demonstrate fundamental principles of soul winning:

WHO WAS THIS JESUS ON THE SHORE?

Everlasting Father.

Existed before incarnation. After the interlude of the time in the tomb He would exist forever after ascension.

Creator.

“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” Jn 1:3

Palmoni. [Strong's H6422][Daniel 8:13]

The Wonderful Numberer

Illus: Bloch and Christ

Knows the numbers of the hairs on our heads. [Matt 10:30; Luke 12:7]

QUOTE: Over the door into the Cavendish laboratory at Cambridge, England

Knows the number of the stars in the heavens, and has a name for each one. [Psalm 137:4]

*“To Think God’s Thoughts After Him”*

It was as Palmoni that Christ gave Daniel the prophecy of the 2300 days. [Cf Sanctuary Message]

it was as Palmoni that Christ told the disciples to throw the net on the right side of the boat

Illus: 2300 days / 70 weeks

Cf. Against logic since rudder on right side and against custom

an analogue to

it was Palmoni that Christ told the disciples to drag the net up onto the shore so they could see the great fish and count them

230 space groups for 7 crystal systems in the physical world

Why 153 great fishes. . . why not 150 . . . or an indeterminate number . . .

Created by this same Jesus

FISHERMEN COUNT THEIR FISH

Jesus said “I AM the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE, NO MAN COMES TO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME”  
Sometimes that TRUTH is expressed in numbers.

Why not identify them by species, sturgeon, cod, sardines?

Illus: Knows the spin number of the neutron  
n = -1.91 (xr Felix Bloch at Stanford who won the Nobel Prize for discovering] Jesus created the neutron and give it its spin number and he gave numbers to all the other physical constants in the universe {speed of light, gravity forces, attraction of the hydrogen bond, etc., etc.}

Just great fishes.

In their disappointment and discouragement, Peter and the others went back to fishing for fish, not fishing for souls. They were supposed to travel all over the then known world, to turn it upside down, and to win souls by preaching and teaching.

BELIEVE THE 153 GREAT FISH CAUGHT AT HIS COMMAND WAS NOT A RANDOM NUMBER BUT A SPECIAL NUMBER. MANY, MANY SUGGESTIONS BUT I BELIEVE THIS IS THE ONE CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF THIS OBJECT LESSON.

[Types of believers; types of fish; solar/lunar cycle; R. Bultmann, the converts of the disciples; sum of first 5 factorials; esoteric numerology; gematria; triangular number]

📖 English writer wrote a book, which listed every encounter Jesus had personally with individuals:

Woman at the well

Nichodemus at night

Saul on the road to Damascus.

Call of Matthew the tax collector

Zaccheus up in the tree

The writer found that the number of the 1-on-1 encounters of Jesus with individuals was One Hundred and Fifty Three. Each of these encounters led to belief, service and salvation.

God has no grandchildren. Only children. Each of us must have an individual relationship with Jesus. Our parents cannot save us. Only Jesus can save. Not children for parents, not parents for children.

In a subtle and special way, I believe that Jesus – Palmoni – the wonderful numberer was telling us that we matter individually and we must each have a personal relationship with Him.

Other soul winning truth in the story:

📖 Jesus is our leader. He told them where to throw the net. EGW says that the boat was oriented so the right side was

facing the shore. Because Jesus was there this was the side of faith where a combination of human effort and divine power would lead to success.

📖 The fish were great fish because there are no little fish in the Kingdom of God. EGW:

“One soul is worth the entire world”.

Joy in heaven when one sinner repents, rather than the 99. Luke 15:7

A repentant sinner + God = a majority

📖 Every New Believer must be brought to Jesus. They are not our converts.

They are His children, and they are greatly loved by Him.

Not as David Koresh who

Tried to recruit followers out of the Hayward church

Not as James Jones who took his followers to Br. Guyana and killed them all –

Quote: ‘The trouble with you people, is you pay more attention to this book (the Bible) than to me.’

Illus: Don Schulte in potluck line  
After NER performed a baptism

Quote: ‘It was a special privilege, but there was one problem – YOU WERE NOT THERE.’

SCHULTE BAPTISED THE NEXT WEEK

📖 The net did not break even though it was full of 153 great fish.

Cf. Palo Alto Ch Board Meeting w. Q 'What happens if too many people come.'

Not limited to 144k. 'Whosoever will may drink of the water of life freely' Revelation 22:17 and 21:6

THERE IS ENOUGH ROOM IN HEAVEN AND THE NEW JERUSALEM FOR ALL OF US

THERE IS ROOM FOR YOU AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

TAKEAWAY

❶ Ask for divine appointments because we do not know where to go or what to do. Jesus told the disciples where to cast the net. He will tell us where there are fish waiting.

Illus: Merlin Farley and building churches "where the fish are biting"

❷ The H.S. will bring the fish to us: collectively or individually. Today there are sound lures and chemical lures. H.S. is best – ch animals to the ark.

❸ Be prepared. Cf Glow Tracts

❹ Everyone is a candidate for the Kingdom. High or low, male or female, immigrant or DAR member

❺ It is Christ that draws through His His grace that holds them.

❻ H.S. and confidence given for purpose of soul winning.

John 21 and the Book of John end with Jesus asking Peter 3x whether Peter loved Him. 3x Peter answered YES, LORD you know I do.

3x he said

Feed My Sheep

IF WE LOVE HIM, WE WILL KEEP THE DOORS OF THIS CHURCH OPEN AND WELCOME IN ALL WHO COME SEEKING A SAVIOR.

Illus: Doug Batchelor's first Visit to SDA church in Palm Springs where the elder came down the aisle, sat on the floor next to Doug, and put his arm around him.

DB #1 soul winner in the world today

IF WE LOVE JESUS WE WILL

Feed HIS Sheep