



Going Fishing “Life in His Name” Series

John 21:1-14, p.907

November 17, 2019

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God explains the ways he ministers to and through Christians in the local church.

The Text: John 21:1-14

- 1) Chapter 21 is an “epilogue,” a conclusion that connects the Gospel’s story to the life of the reader.

- 2) The fishing story explains the church’s mission, source of power, and spiritual presence.

(a) The mission of the church can be defined as “fishing for people” (vv. 1-3).

(b) Jesus is the source of the church’s ministerial power and success (vv. 4-8).

- *What does the church’s source of power look like in the church?*
 - *We pray and ask for God to work – a different power.*
 - *We minister as God has asked us to work – a different popularity*
 - *We define success based upon how God works – a different purpose.*

(c) The gathered church experiences the ministering presence of Jesus through the Spirit (vv. 9-14).

- *How should Christians think about the local church?*
 - *The local church is a sacred gathering where Christ is present through the Spirit.*
 - *The church is the means God has chosen to work in and through each Christian.*
 - *The Christian is expected to participate in the gatherings of the local church.*

Response

Every time we gather as a local church, we experience Jesus’ promise that he is present among us.

Small Group Questions for John 21:1-14

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- 1) Starter Question: When have you felt the presence of God in a situation?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) The text does not explain this, but why do you think the disciples went fishing (v. 3)?
- 4) How did the disciples not recognize Jesus, and what significance should we draw from the way Jesus addressed the disciples when he called to them in the boat (vv. 4-5)?
- 5) What is God teaching us when the disciples on their own catch not one fish but with Jesus' authority catch a huge quantity (v. 6)?
- 6) How does "fishing" serve as a metaphor in this text and elsewhere in Scripture for the mission of the church (see also Luke 5:1-11)?
- 7) How is the church's mission and evangelism an act of "fishing for people," and what does such fishing look like in practice?
- 8) Since the text has explained that Jesus is needed for the catching of fish (people), in what ways should a church rely on God for its ministry success?
- 9) How should the "success" of a church and its ministries be defined differently than success in our culture?
- 10) How does the meal on the beach with Jesus serving his disciples serve as a metaphor for the presence of Jesus in the gathered local church, the blessed ministry of the gospel, and even the Lord's Supper (vv. 9-13)?

Further study this week: Matthew 4:18-20/Mark 1:16-20/Luke 5 on Christ calling fishers of men (Mon); Matthew 13:47-50 on the Kingdom of God like fishing (Tues); Zechariah 4 on ministry power (Wed); John 14 on Jesus' presence in the church (Thurs); Hebrews 10 on not neglecting to the church's gathering (Fri).