

“Jesus’ Casting Call” John 21 The Epilogue John 21:6-11; Matthew 28:1-10

There is not one part of the plan of God that calls for self-motivated, self-serving, self-righteousness, arrogant human good production; that’s forever excluded from the grace policy set forth by God, Himself.

Every single thing in the plan of God depends upon the power of God; this is the prime example of the overarching concept of God’s grace.

While we cannot ever win with religious legalism; we cannot ever lose with grace.

Lyrics are designed to appeal to the mind and the melody appeals to the emotion and that’s why the disciples who were overcome by the tune they sang in this hymn, went out and fell flat on their faces as far as biblical truth application was concerned.

The most beautiful music in the world doesn’t sustain us in the Christian life throughout any pressure situation at all; it’s only the mind of Christ in us that sustains us, period!

As was the case with much of what the Lord Jesus explained to the eleven early on; they either didn’t understand it and were perhaps too proud to admit it or they were afraid to appear weak in front of the others or they just plain forgot the appointment that Jesus had made with them.

But they received some gracious memory help on the most glorious of Sunday mornings when an angel spoke to Mary Magdalene, the first visitor at Jesus’ empty grave in John 20:17-18.

Should they continue in their former careers or follow in their Master’s ministry that He’s prepared for them and prepared them for?

So, should they do nothing but wait for supernatural instructions?

“We might as well go fishing while we try to decide” and they all hesitated together.

“After all, we can’t be effective evangelists without Jesus here to physically fall back on, can we?”

Had the disciples been successful at fishing that night, they would have missed the most valuable of lessons regarding their commission in the evangelization of the world!

These men knew their craft extensively well and they were naturally very good at it but they now needed to learn quickly to depend on God and God alone for all of their sustenance; first spiritually and then physically.

Who among us hasn’t struggled with a problem all night like the disciples here in our story?

And then realized the next morning that the Lord Jesus was standing on the shore all the time, waiting patiently to not only provide our necessary spiritual food but also to teach us how to digest and assimilate it!

The disciples had exhausted all of their natural resources and that’s a great place to be!

Jesus was showing His apostles that although He may be out of their sight, He is forever with them!

Only God knows where the fish are located and that includes the human fish!

We cannot win with legalism and we cannot lose with grace.

No believer can promote himself in God’s economy, for only God promotes.

And God uses all types of personalities.

Human free-will must operate apart from pressure and persuasion.

We are here to get to first get to know God, then obey Him and then represent Him.

Why give up on yourself when God can use whatever it is that you have to offer Him?

Like it was with the Exodus generation,

we must learn to 'Stand still and watch the deliverance of the Lord!'

Not all that follow Jesus are believers, for some follow for all the wrong reasons.

In witnessing, we must make the issue clear as to Who Jesus Christ is, what He has done and how He can be known personally.

And we must always remember that the life of the unbeliever is nothing more than an 'empty net' without the Lord God filling it with biblical truth.

Many believers spend their entire lives trying to make themselves happy and they come up empty every time like the disciples when they fished all night thinking that would calm their nerves and perhaps distract them.

Just as the Lord provided the fish for the disciples, He provides happiness, blessing and profound peace for those who trust Him!

What seven grown men cannot do with their own human strength and abilities, one man is able to do with divine strength and ability behind him.