



John 21:1-14

His Best Friend's Gospel

*From Empty Nets to
Overflowing Grace*



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21 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way.

² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together.

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³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.”



⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.

⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.



⁸ The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. ⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.”



¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.



¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.



The Futility of Self-Reliance (John 21:1-3)

- The disciples return to the familiar, seeking control in uncertain times.
- Peter declares, “I am going fishing,” a retreat to what he knows.
- Despite their expertise, experience, and strategic timing, their nets remain empty.
- God sovereignly demonstrates the inadequacy of self-reliance.
- “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1).
- Our own strength and wisdom will fail; trust in the Lord is essential.



The Sovereignty of Christ's Provision (John 21:4–6)

- Jesus appears on the shore, but the disciples don't recognize Him.
- His question—“Children, do you have any fish?”—invites them to admit their failure.
- Christ's command to cast the net on the other side defies logic.
- The miraculous catch reveals Christ's power and perfect timing.
- Obedience to Christ, even when it doesn't make sense, is the Trust His sovereignty and obey His Word, even when the way forward isn't clear.



The Fellowship of the Risen Lord (John 21:7–14)

- John recognizes, “It is the Lord!” prompting Peter’s passionate response.
- Jesus invites the disciples to share a meal: “Come and have breakfast.”
- The focus shifts from provision to fellowship with Christ.
- Jesus desires relationship, not just meeting physical needs.
- Fellowship with Christ brings peace, rest, and satisfaction.
- Commune daily with Jesus through prayer, Scripture, and fellowship with His people.



Key Takeaways

- **Self-reliance has limits:** Without Christ, even our best efforts are ultimately futile.
- **Christ's provision is sovereign:** Trust in His perfect timing and power.
- **Fellowship is the goal:** Jesus calls us to rest and joy in His presence.
- Where in your life are you relying on your own strength?
- Will you trust in the Lord's provision and enjoy His fellowship?

