

## Jesus Cooks Breakfast

Lanelle looked at herself again in the mirror. She was nervous. She was also surprised her coworker, Shandra, had invited her to a women's church brunch. Lanelle had always been unpopular and somewhat an outsider. She arrived at the brunch 20 minutes early and was greeted warmly by a few people, which put her a little at ease. When Lanelle spotted Shandra, she was relieved, even more so when Shandra sat down next to her.

"Don't be silly," Shandra said. "Of course, I would be sitting with you."

The food was great and plentiful. Shandra introduced Lanelle to the other women at the table and many others at the brunch before it was time for the speaker. The topic, "The Lord Welcomes You," made Lanelle feel even better.

"It seems a small thing to be welcoming," said Evangelist Taylor. "But it is not. The Lord wants His Church to be welcoming, especially to those who are lonely, broken, battered, and feel rejected. We should embrace them, because He does. Those of you who feel like outsiders," he continued, "and those who don't, the Lord invites you to fellowship with Him. He is standing at the door of your heart today, knocking."

Lanelle stood to her feet, along with several other women. Their response was met with spirited "Amens" and applause.

**1.** *Describe a time when you had a memorable time of fellowship with someone. What made it meaningful?*

**2.** *Describe a time when you had a memorable time of fellowship with Jesus. What made it meaningful?*

**3.** *Why is it important to remember that Jesus wants to spend time with you and often initiates the process of doing so?*

**LESSON FOCUS:** Jesus invites you to fellowship with Him.

## Jesus Showed Up

*John 21:1-6, KJV*

1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

2 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.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

6 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.

*John 21:1-6, NIV*

<sup>1</sup>Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: <sup>2</sup>Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup>"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>5</sup>He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

<sup>6</sup>He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

The events recorded in today's text came after Jesus' two appearances to groups of disciples following His resurrection (John 20:19-23, 24-29). Sometime later, the disciples were in Galilee, per His instructions (Matt. 26:32;

28:7-10), and Peter decided to go fishing. Six others agreed to join him. Why, we are not told. Perhaps they decided it was time to get back to their "real" jobs and make some money, or they were not sure what to do next and went back to what they knew best. Whatever the reason, they set out at night to fish and caught nothing.

After a night of unsuccessful fishing, Jesus called out to them from the shore. Why they didn't immediately recognize that it was Jesus standing there is unclear. It could be that the circumstances in which Jesus appeared were so unusual that they found His presence startling. Jesus told them to throw their net on the other side of the boat, and they took in a net-swelling number of fish. John does not call it a miracle, but it is reminiscent of the miraculous catch of fish that some of the disciples experienced when Jesus first called them (Luke 5:1-11).

**4.** *Why were the disciples in Galilee fishing?*

**5.** *What happened after they went out in their boat to fish?*

**6.** *What other event in the disciples' life is like this great catch of fish?*

## Jesus Cooked a Meal

*John 21:7-9, KJV*

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging

*John 21:7-9, NIV*

<sup>7</sup>Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

<sup>8</sup>The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not

the net with fishes.

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

far from shore, about a hundred yards. <sup>9</sup>When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

With the net heavy with fish, one of the disciples, typically identified as John, recognized that it was Jesus who was hailing them from shore. When Peter heard John acknowledge this, Peter wrapped himself up in his cloak before jumping off the boat and heading ashore. It was a Jewish custom in those days for a person to clothe himself properly before greeting another person, so it would have been considered rude or disrespectful to greet someone wearing only a loincloth or in one's undergarments.

John's reference to a "fire of burning coals" (vs. 9) indicates that the fire Jesus built earlier was now down to coals. This along with the fish cooking on it and bread sitting nearby suggests that Jesus began preparing the meal long before the disciples reached the shore.

**7.** *How did Peter respond when he heard John acknowledge that it was Jesus who was speaking to them?*

**8.** *What is the significance that the fire had burned to coals, that there was fish cooking on it, and that there was bread nearby?*

## Jesus Invited Them to Breakfast

*John 21:10-14, KJV*

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

11 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

*John 21:10-14, NIV*

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come

not the net broken.

12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

<sup>13</sup>Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When Peter "dragged the net ashore" (vs. 11), he likely just took the lead as the seven worked as a team to bring in the heavy load. Jesus' instruction to bring some fish to Him may indicate that what He was cooking on the coals was insufficient to feed all of them and that more fish needed to be added to the fire.

Once the fish were brought in, Jesus invited the seven to share a meal with Him. None of them asked, "Who are you?" Although they may initially have had some doubts regarding who was speaking to them, when Jesus invited them to breakfast, they knew it was the Lord.

They should not have been amazed that Jesus did this. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to some of His disciples following His resurrection. They had also spent three years with Jesus, learning much in the process about His character and nature. Jesus' invitation to fellowship with Him should therefore not have been a surprise!

**9.** *Why is it unlikely that Peter hauled the net in by himself?*

**10.** *What may Jesus' instruction to bring some fish to Him indicate?*

**11.** *Why should Jesus' invitation to the seven to fellowship with Him not have been a surprise?*

## Why Are We So Surprised?

I might say I would never be surprised by Jesus' invitation to me to fellowship with Him. Yet I find myself responding more often than not as if I believed that Jesus does not want to spend time with me.

One of those times is when I am down in the dumps as the result of life throwing curves at me that I don't understand or when experiencing troubles that I can't cope with or fix. Rather than turning my attention upward, I often turn inward, wallowing in a pit of uncertainty, wondering where Jesus is in the midst of my problems, feeling that He has abandoned me.

Then there are those times when I'm caught in a cycle of sin. When I know I'm not doing what's right in God's eyes, it's easy to feel that He is disappointed with me and wants nothing to do with me. Guilt may cause me to turn away from Jesus in shame, pushing away the hand He is extending toward me.

But ironically, I also may feel out of fellowship with Jesus when things are going well. I may take for granted the blessings I've received from Him or am slow to acknowledge their source; sometimes I'm so busy with my daily pursuits that I fail to hear or respond to the hailing of Jesus from the shore; sometimes I spend so much time in my boat looking for a fish that I forget how much Jesus wants to be in the boat with me.

Jesus wants to spend time with me no matter the circumstances and is continually inviting me to fellowship with Him. It's critical I remember this, whether I'm in my boat or on the shore, whether I think I deserve it or not.

**12.** *In what circumstances do you find it difficult to believe that Jesus really wants to spend time with you?*

**13.** *Why do you think this is so?*

**14.** *What can help you to accept Jesus' invitation more readily to fellowship with Him?*

## Jesus' Invitation to You

Jesus wants to spend time with us. But sometimes we let our daily pursuits or our personal troubles get in the way of recognizing or accepting this. What can help us to overcome this is setting aside some time each day to remind ourselves of Jesus' desire to fellowship with us no matter what we are doing or how we are feeling.

► *Take time each day this week to remind yourself that Jesus wants to spend time with you; do something specific to accept His invitation to fellowship with Him. Write here or on an index card what you plan to do each day.*

### KEY VERSE

Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

—John 21:12, KJV

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

—John 21:12, NIV

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

Week of April 17 through April 23

(See *The Quiet Hour* and *Cross* devotionals on these passages.)

- Mon. Matthew 10:28-42—Jesus Brings Danger and Conflict.
- Tues. John 18:13-27—Peter Denies Jesus.
- Wed. Ezekiel 18:13-27—Repent, Turn, and Live.
- Thurs. 2 Corinthians 7:1-11—Godly Sorrow Produces Repentance.
- Fri. Psalm 51:1-9—Blot Out My Transgressions.
- Sat. Psalm 51:10-19—Create in Me a Clean Heart.
- Sun. John 21:15-25—If You Love Me, Follow Me.