

UNEXPECTED FEAST

John 21:1–14

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, revealed, disciples, Sea of Tiberias, Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, Cana in Galilee, Galilee, sons of Zebedee, fishing, boat, night, caught nothing, shore, children, fish, cast the net, Lord, outer garment, threw himself into the sea, land, charcoal fire, bread, large fish, 153, breakfast, third time, raised from the dead

Introduction

The almost eighty-mile journey to Galilee must have been filled with lively discussion. The disciples have seen the risen Christ and eagerly make their way to the place Jesus had told them to go and wait. Waiting is always a challenge, so Peter tells the group he is going fishing. They must have needed provisions, and this was familiar and perhaps therapeutic. The sound of the water and the rhythm of the boat must have been so familiar and comforting. The trip turned out to be disappointing because these disciples caught no fish. The call from the shore was unrecognized, but the results were unmistakable.

Jesus met them in the place of their first call and reminded them of their mission. Disciples always need Jesus because doing ministry in our own power is exhausting. However, when we obey his word, he will provide all the necessary power and strength. Jesus cares for us body and soul. He meets us with his amazing grace. The invitation to come and dine with him is always open. The table of grace need not be an UNEXPECTED FEAST, but a place for strength, comfort, and fellowship. Come to Jesus.

Outline

The church has always been made up of failures and ordinary people (v. 2).

You won't accomplish much when you labor in your own strength (v. 3).

Those who come to Jesus always find grace (vv. 7-10).

The nets won't tear when you labor in Christ's strength (v. 12).

The invitation to join Jesus is still open (v. 12).

Application

Are you more concerned with your failure or your faithfulness?

Whose strength are you working from?

Have you accepted Jesus' invitation?

Questions

1. How does Jesus reveal himself to us? He told the disciples to wait for him in Galilee. Where does he tell us to wait for him now?
2. Why do you think it is so easy to miss Jesus in the ordinary things of life? What should we do to change it?
3. Do you find it difficult to receive God's grace after you have failed? Why or why not?
4. How would you encourage someone who feels frustrated and tired when it comes to serving the Lord?
5. Describe the experience of forgiveness and fellowship with Jesus after failure.