

"This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead." (John 20:19)

### I. The Third Appearance

- a. The setting of this third appearance was the Sea of Tiberias, better known as the Sea of Galilee.
- b. Why were the disciples about their old business, when Jesus had died, risen, and had sent them on their new task, *beginning in Jerusalem*?
- c. Maybe a good night's fishing was probably just what a doctor would have ordered. Also, the disciples needed to eat.
- d. Peter was the initiator among the group. He led the other disciples to the right fishing spot.
- e. Jesus appeared on the shore. He knew where they were and therefore knew what they would be doing. They were fishing without success, so Jesus provided a fully cooked meal for the group.
- f. Once again, Jesus proved that He is a provider in every circumstance. He served fish sandwiches.
- g. This scene became a testimony of their impending work, and ours. These miracles are set possibly on the very stretch of shore where Jesus had walked and called them into service.
  1. *Come, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.* (Mk. 1:16-17)

### II. A Brief Teaching on Evangelism

- a. This story speaks to the current practice of evangelism. Churches in America have the *know-how*, a variety of resources, methods, technological and communication assets at our disposal.
  1. Much time and money are spent acquiring these tools and methods from conferences/seminars.
- b. A recent study showed that these congregations who employ "strategies of evangelism" reach on average 1.9 genuine converts for Christ per year.
- c. In contrast, the churches of Third World countries often do not have the means to purchase evangelism tools nor do they have access to all things tech. However, thousands are saved yearly.
- d. Christianity in some Third World areas appears to be growing almost out of control.
- e. Application: There was nothing wrong with the disciples' fishing *know-how*, it simply did not bring them any fish when they trusted in it.
  1. When they listened and followed Jesus the harvest was overwhelming.
- f. Church family, the level of our prayer ministry will be the level of our dependence on the Lord.
- g. Effectual fervent prayer (intense sincere confidence in God) is generally at a low level at many of our nation's churches. However, in the underdeveloped world, prayer is their very life-breath.
- h. Jesus said, *This kind is not cast out except by prayer.* We can know what to say, but we need the power of prayer behind the words we speak and the holy actions we take.
- i. Beloved, prayer is more than a wish list, it is a spiritual journey of putting faith into action.
- j. When we die to our reliance on ourselves and our abilities then we will discover the abundant and ripe harvest that Jesus spoke of. (Matthew 9:37)

### III. Practical Application

- a. Evangelism is sharing the Good News that Jesus died for the sins of humanity. The Good News can only be understood in context of the bad news.
- b. No matter how learned or technically equipped we are without Jesus *we can do nothing.* (John 15:5) We must seek and continually ask the Lord of the harvest to guide us into the field.
- c. I am asking for 12 committed disciples to come alongside me and one another and pray for the laborers and the spiritual harvest in Fayetteville, NC. We must wrestle like Jacob! (Gen 32:24-32)