

John 21:1-14  
The Unforgettable Breakfast

### Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

**21** After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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<sup>[a]</sup> off.

<sup>9</sup> When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

#### Prayer:

Gracious God our Father, we come before you holy and inerrant Word today. We sit under its revelation and its authority. Send your Spirit to open up its truths to us today. Work in our minds and hearts to reveal and confirm the reality of our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. We ask in his holy name. Amen.

#### Main Idea:

This third resurrection appearance of Jesus to his group of disciples happened in Galilee as he had promised and was another convincing proof that he had truly risen physically and bodily from the dead.

#### Outline:

**Human effort can be frustrating.**

**Divine provision is fruitful.**

## **Death and resurrection did not end the fellowship.**

We see 7 fishermen here. For a fisherman who's been out on the lake all night battling the winds and waves and throwing out the heavy net and hauling it in, breakfast is much more welcomed and needed than for us who've been sleeping all night in a warm, comfortable bed.

Such was the shape that these 7 disciples were in. They were weary and they were tired. All night long throwing out the heavy net and then hauling it in. There were the currents and waves to battle. Back-breaking work. Builds muscles. The masculine camaraderie was sometimes exhilarating. A good way to make a living – when the fish show up.

### **I. Human effort can be frustrating.**

Who were these 7 men? They were 7 disciples of Jesus; men who had walked with Jesus and knew him well and who had experienced the grief of his death and yet also the joy of his resurrection. Verse 2 names them: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee (that would be James and John) , and two others of his disciples were together.

The disciples were obedient to the risen Lord in that they had gone to Galilee in obedience to his instructions. They had not met the Lord there yet, but they were in anticipation that he would appear. After all, he had already come among them twice before.

Perhaps as they gathered together for their evening meals, maybe at Peter's house, they anticipated that he might appear again.

So we can imagine that as they ate together, their ears were alert, they kept glancing at the door should he appear there like he had before. Perhaps they had even made sure they had food prepared in case he wanted to eat some more broiled fish as he had on that first Sunday evening. I am just trying to imagine what the situation, the psychological state, the emotions of these men might have been.

They were no doubt still amazed at how he had opened up the scriptures to them that first Sunday evening and taught them everything about himself “in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms.”

So as they ate together, they may have said to one another, “Maybe he will come tonight.” But they would finish their meal and spend time talking and perhaps praying and singing and retired to sleep with no appearance of the Lord.

But life had to go on. There were families to feed and bills to be paid. So Peter said in verse 3, “I am going fishing.” The other 6 disciples said, “We will join you.”

Peter and his brother Andrew had a fishing business. Actually the two brother, James and John , were also in business with peter. That was their activity when Jesus met them and called them to follow him.

Perhaps it had been months since Peter had been out on the water. But he and Andrew and the others quickly fell into the routine they had practiced since they were little boys. They were experts in knowing the currents and winds and storms on the Great Sea of Tiberias (Also known as the Sea of Galilee) and the most likely places to catch fish. But that night all their experience and expertise was to no avail. Every time they threw out the great net, it came back dragging nothing but water. Can't feed your family on sea water.

As the light began to appear on the eastern horizon the fisherman agree that it was a wasted night. Lots of effort but nothing to show for it. Might as well haul in the nets, fold them up and head home.

But as the rising sun began to lighten up the sea and the approaching shore they noticed the figure of a a man standing on the shore. Usually you didn't see a lone man standing on the shore so early. Most people were just waking up as the morning light shone through their windows.

The disciples continued rowing the boat or perhaps they were using the sail as the main power source, but they continued to head for the dock down the shoreline where they could tie up the boat and hope for a better day. Fishing is like farming, you are subject to nature, or nature's God.

## II. **Divine provision is fruitful**

<sup>4</sup> Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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<sup>[a]</sup> off.

### Luke 5

<sup>4</sup> And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, <sup>Ⓜ</sup>"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> And Simon answered, "Master, <sup>Ⓜ</sup>we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, <sup>Ⓜ</sup>they enclosed a large number of fish, and <sup>Ⓜ</sup>their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup> They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. <sup>Ⓜ</sup>And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees,

saying, <sup>(a)</sup>“Depart from me, for <sup>(b)</sup>I am a sinful man, O Lord.” <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

### III. **Death and resurrection did not end the fellowship.**

<sup>9</sup> When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

#### Conclusions of the Matter:

How this event was convincing proof:

1. This incident was almost the same as the previous miracle to the fisherman in Luke 5. The same one who had overwhelmed them with a divine miracle repeated almost the same miracle. How many in history of world could do this? Only Son of God. The Son of God in Luke 5 was the same Son of God here.
2. The identity of his person was self-evident. He revealed himself.
3. Jesus’ service to his disciples had not ceased with his crucifixion. It was manifest here and would be for all the future to come.
  - “I go to prepare a place...
  - He ever lives to make intercession
  - He rules over heaven and earth
  - He sustains all things by the Word of his power.

#### A. Importance of multiple witnesses

Acts 2:32 - <sup>32</sup> This Jesus <sup>(a)</sup>God raised up, <sup>(b)</sup>and of that we all are witnesses.

Acts 3:15 - <sup>15</sup> and you killed <sup>(a)</sup>the Author of life, <sup>(b)</sup>whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

Acts 4:33 - <sup>33</sup> And with great <sup>(a)</sup>power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and <sup>(b)</sup>great grace was upon them all.

Acts 10:41-42 - God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,<sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

In contrast, in Mormonism and Islam we only have one man's testimony of the truth of the supposed revelation.

One other time for sure, though probably more – at the ascension

B. Jesus kept his word to meet them in Galilee.

***Jesus always keeps his word:***

I will come again and take you to be with me...

He who believes in me...

C. It is Jesus' prerogative to reveal himself to whoever and whenever he chooses.

We are indebted for revealing himself to us.

“Show us the Father...”

When we Pray for the salvation of others we need to know that Jesus must reveal himself to them. Otherwise, they have no power or ability to believe. They must be regenerated by the sovereign grace of God. This is reality; we need to pray in accordance with Biblical reality. Only Jesus can reveal himself and save. We can pray he will do this for those for whom we pray.

D. Jesus continues to serve his people and meet the needs of their lives.

**Human effort can be frustrating.**

**Divine provision is fruitful.**

**Death and resurrection did not end the fellowship between Jesus and his people. It is ongoing by the Holy Spirit.**

May God add his blessing to the reading and preaching of his Holy Word, once for all delivered to the saints.

-by Jeff Gregory, pastor  
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