

Going Fishing

Are you a disciple maker? Do you see the vast harvest just waiting for us to fill the boats with fish, fish ready to taste and see Jesus? Our hope is in Him and the work He commissions us to do. His disciples were no different from us. They had their worries and their doubts, especially after His death and resurrection. But they pushed through. He gave them abundance and hope, just like He does for us today. Join us this week as we pray this prayer for strength and boldness to lift up the name of Jesus, and proclaim His glory wherever we may go.

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. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered Him, "No." 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. 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. 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.

— JOHN 21:3-8 (ESV)

THE PRAYER

Even after Jesus saw the disciples in Jerusalem, they were still reluctant to leave. Finally, seven of the eleven remaining disciples made the three-day journey to Galilee to meet with their Master. Yet, they were still bound by fear and worry. They fished all night in the Sea of Galilee and caught

nothing. Despite their exhaustion and despair, Jesus came to them. Hidden in the darkness of new day, He had come to recommission them through the miraculous catch of a lifetime. It is no different for us today. Our gloom and doom will soon be swallowed up by the dawn of revival!

Jesus, it can be hard to see You amidst the darkness swirling around us. But, we believe You are with us. Help us to boldly proclaim the Gospel in our neighborhoods, communities, and cities. COVID will not define us, and lockdowns will not lock up our faith. We cry out before You with one voice. Please drive back this pandemic and release the power of Your Holy Spirit.

The disciples were deafened by unbelief and despair. They could not recognize the voice of their Master. Yet, when they took a step of faith and cast their nets out on the right side of the boat, they were rewarded with a massive harvest. These verses capture the promise awaiting the church today. Even as the disciples obeyed and cast out their nets again, so we choose to reach out to those around us. If we will respond to Your voice today, the harvest of a lifetime awaits us.

Lord, help us to hear and respond to Your voice. Revive us, we pray, with a fresh outpouring of Your Holy Spirit. Even if we have fished all night and caught nothing, we still believe for a harvest at the break of a new day. Fill us with fresh faith and recommission us to make disciples among all the peoples of the world. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.