

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Forty-One

The Second Miraculous Catch of Fish

Text: John 21:1-14

Introduction:

1. After Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared several times to His disciples.
2. The third of these appearances occurred at the Sea of Galilee (or, Tiberias).
3. On this occasion, Jesus performed a miracle with important implications for His apostles.

I. The Miracle

- A. Seven of the apostles were fishing on the Sea of Galilee.
 1. This was the former occupation of at least four of them (Matthew 4:18; Luke 5:10).
 2. Some imagine that they were returning to their former lives because they had given up hope since Jesus had died (cf. Acts 1:6).
 3. However, Jesus had already appeared to them twice, proving His resurrection.
 4. Also, He had told them that He would see them in Galilee (Matthew 28:7, 10; Mark 14:28; 16:7).
 5. Thus, it seems that while they were waiting, they fished to earn some money and to keep from being idle.
- B. They fished throughout the night, but caught nothing. {*Providence vs. Miracle*}
- C. When morning came, Jesus called to them from the seashore and told them to cast their net on the right side of the ship.
- D. When they obeyed, they caught so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat.
 1. They caught 153 fish, but the net did not break.
 2. They had to drag the net behind the boat to the shore and then draw the net upon the land.
- E. It was at this point that the disciples realized that it was Jesus.

II. The Manifestation

- A. This miracle hearkened back to the first miraculous catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11) and proved that Jesus was alive, raised from the dead.
- B. It demonstrated His power and authority, even after His crucifixion.
- C. It proved Him to be the Son of God.

III. The Message

- A. Don't fish on the wrong side of the boat (cf. Matthew 7:6).
- B. Jesus was where He promised to be.
- C. One should be properly clothed when in the presence of the Lord.
- D. The great work Jesus had for the apostles required their unity and cooperation.
- E. When we obey the Lord, He will provide for our needs.
- F. To love the Lord is to obey and serve Him – and His people.