**John 21:3-7 3Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” They answered Him, “No.” 6And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some.*” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. 7Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.**

In our scripture this morning, we see the disciples returning to something familiar to them. In Matthew 19:27, Peter told Jesus that the disciples had left all to follow Him, but here we see very clearly in verse 3 that Peter had not left all – there’s a boat - *Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.* The disciples have been through much – they’ve walked hundreds of miles, seen miracles, heard parables, seen Jesus challenge the Pharisees. They’ve seen Him celebrated, condemned, and Resurrected. They’ve tried to defend Him, successfully denied Him, and all have deserted Him. They’ve seen His body taken down, seen the tomb where it couldn’t be found, and seen the Risen Christ twice standing in their midst. But lest we forget, these are ordinary men, come from ordinary circumstances, to experience the extraordinary and supernatural. How must they have been feeling, what must have been racing through their minds, one can only imagine! Ordinary people encountering the extraordinary Christ.

 That’s still the way it happens today. Jesus still operates just the same way today. He seeks the ordinary to do the extraordinary! Jesus doesn’t come to seek those who believe themselves righteous, those who believe themselves well, those who believe themselves perfect. In Luke 5:31-32 Jesus speaks to the Pharisees - *Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”* This is a reflection of Psalm 53:1, which the Pharisees should have known by heart, that says *The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”
They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; There is none who does good.”* Likewise today, those who think they have no need of Jesus will not be convinced. It’s only when we realize our need of Him that we move from disqualified to qualified, sinner to righteous, and become equipped to do the extraordinary things that Christ calls us to in life. He calls us all to the extraordinary; it’s we who limit ourselves.

 Let’s continue with Verses 4 & 5 *But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” They answered Him, “No.”* Recall back in verse 3 that they had caught nothing the whole night. Nothing. The net would’ve been lowered in and drawn up repeatedly. Nothing. Lots of effort, lots of hard work, nothing to show for it. All of us have felt this way before… Hard work… nothing to show.

 Today, I want to concentrate on verse 6 *And He said to them,* *“Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.* Does this verse look familiar at all? It should! Let’s look in Luke 5:4-6 – This is the day that Simon followed Jesus for the first time - *When He (Jesus) had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.* How appropriate – how meaningful – that on the very morning that Jesus is going to restore Peter that He do something that would prove with no doubt who was speaking from the shoreline. Jesus was saying – Peter, we’re going to start again!

 Very clearly, the verse before us says cast the net on the right side of the boat. The Greek word for right denotes the right hand side of the boat. If they’d fished all night, they probably tried that side as well as all the other sides. Yet, when Jesus appears, in both instances, the nets that were empty, are now full. One of the things we can be assured of is that the fish were there all along. The nets may have been empty, but the fish were there. It was the blessing of Jesus that made all the difference!

 Jesus, in both cases, let the disciples toil all night long under their own power. But, morning came, when the Light showed up, when the Master of the Sea entered the picture, the fish in the net threatened to break the nets. Proof that – in our own power, our success will be limited. Under His control, we can do the extraordinary.

 Jesus makes it clear that, when He calls, those who follow will become fishers of men. *Matthew 4:19 Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* Is everyone a fisher of men… no, only those who follow.

 From the scripture, we see that first the disciples had to be obedient, even when they’d already fished all night and tried all they knew to do. They had to trust Jesus. I want to ask this morning: Is Jesus directing where you’re fishing? Are you casting your net on the right side of the boat? In this case, I’m asking – are you casting on the correct side of the boat? There are two very distinct things going on here – one is that Jesus is giving clear direction and the other is that the disciples are demonstrating clear obedience. The reward is overflowing abundance of blessings. Blessings of a great many fish!

 It works the same way today! If we’re not trusting the instructions of the Holy Spirit, we need not be confused when our walk is proving ineffective. We’re not promised money or things or ease or comfort. We’re promised a harvest of what Jesus sent us to fish for in the first place. Did the fish in the scripture come up cleaned and filleted? No! Did they drag themselves to the shore? No! Did they smell like something other than fish when they hit the shore? No! When we walk with the Lord, trust in His guidance, and follow His instruction, we will be rewarded with the gain that He promised. We’ll be rewarded with souls who need discipling, sheep that need pursuing, and situations that stink to high heaven. Does that mean it’s not of God? No! It means we’re doing the work that Christ called us to do.

 Verse 7 *Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.* Peter plunged in – he couldn’t wait for the little boat to cover the 400 or so feet to shore. Through this miracle, Jesus confirmed to Peter – I chose you Peter. Through plunging in, Peter confirms his desire to let nothing stand between him and Jesus. The Restoration of Peter has already begun.

 I want to send everyone home today with two questions to ponder. First: Are you fishing for what Jesus sent you for? Are you doing the purpose He called you for? Maybe you’re working really, really hard, but not really for the things Jesus wants. Stop this week and ask – Jesus, what is Your purpose for my life? Until you recognize what He sent you for, you cannot recognize the blessings He’ll provide. Second: Are you casting your nets on the right side of the boat? Until Jesus blesses your efforts, your net will come up empty every time. You’ll toil all day and feel empty at the end. Ask – Jesus where would You have me cast my nets? Then plunge in – let nothing stand between you and Jesus! He’s waiting to restore and renew. Let Him reenergize you in your walk with Him today.