

10/05/2020

On the Beach



Jesus said, "Feed my sheep" Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

John 21:17-19

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=6&v=kog4QkDT4Ho&feature=emb_logo

Come on and celebrate
His gift of love, we will celebrate
The Son of God who loved us
And gave us life.
We'll shout Your praise, O King,
You give us joy nothing else can bring,
We'll give to You our offering
In celebration praise.

Chorus

Come on and celebrate celebrate
Celebrate and sing;
Celebrate and sing; to the King.
Come on and celebrate celebrate
Celebrate and sing;
Celebrate and sing; to the King.



"It's a beautiful night," said Peter. "I think I'll go fishing."

"I'll go with you," said James.

"Good idea! We can help with the nets," said John.

The disciples pushed the boat out onto the lake. In the moonlight, they lowered their nets into the water. They held their torches high, hoping the fish would swim in.

"Time to haul in the nets," said Thomas. "We should have some fish by now." But when they pulled in the nets there wasn't a single fish. They decided to try again.

"One, two, three," and the men cast the net onto the surface of the lake, but when they pulled the net into the boat, it was empty. Again and again they did the same thing. But the results were always the same—no fish.

"We've been out here all night," said Peter. "We might as well go back."

The sun was just beginning to peek over the horizon.

"Look," said Thomas, "there's someone on the beach. He's waving to us. What's he saying?"

"He says to cast the net on the right side of the boat. What have we got to lose?" So the men threw the net into the water on the other side of the boat. This time the nets were so heavy with fish that they almost turned the boat over.

"We'll have to drag the nets to shore," said James.

"Wait! That man on the shore! It's Jesus!" said Peter, who was so excited to see his friend that he couldn't wait for the boat to get to the shore. He jumped into the water and swam to greet him.

Jesus had started a charcoal fire on the beach, ready to roast some of the fish the men had caught. "Come. Have breakfast," he said to them. They could hardly believe their eyes.

Over the last few week we have been sharing our thoughts on what happened after Easter, the moments when people encountered the risen, living Jesus.

Who likes going to the beach? We're so lucky on Sheppey that the beach is so close! One of the last encounters happened while the disciples were out fishing off the beach! The fisherman had once again been out and caught very little. Do you enjoy fishing? I have heard some people say that they enjoy fishing even if they never catch a fish. They say that they just enjoy the peace and relaxation of fishing. I will have to confess, it doesn't sound like much fun to sit in a boat holding a fishing pole without ever catching any fish. How about you? Imagine that you have been sitting in a boat fishing all night without catching a single fish. As the sun begins to come up you can see someone standing at the edge of the water.

"Hi!" he calls out. "Have you had any luck?"

"I haven't caught a thing," you answer.

"Well, if you would put your fishing pole on the right-hand side of the boat, you would catch a lot of fish."

Would you try it, or would you say to yourself, "That's the craziest thing I've ever heard. What difference does it make which side of the boat I am fishing from?"

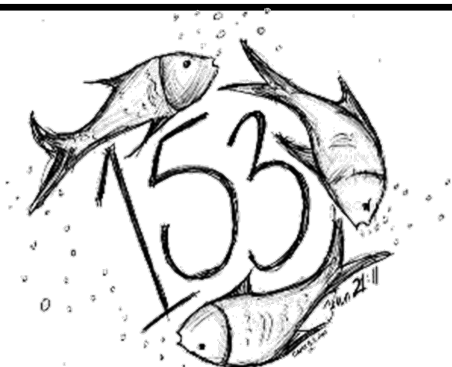
Well that is almost exactly what happened in the bible story today. Did they do it? Yes they did! Did they catch any fish? They caught so many fish that they couldn't even pull the net into the boat! When they got back to the shore they had breakfast with Jesus!

Oh my! It just doesn't get any better than that. Breakfast on the beach with the risen Lord! What would have happened if the disciples had refused to throw their nets on the right-hand side of the boat? They would have missed out on a wonderful breakfast on the beach with Jesus. What happens when you and I refuse to do the things Jesus has called us to do? We miss out on the wonderful blessings that he wants for us!



Let us Pray

Father, we know that you have wonderful blessings in store for us when we faithfully follow our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that we will always be obedient disciples. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



May God's blessing surround you each day.

As we trust in and walk in his way;

May His presence within,

Guard and keep us from sin;

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.