

# FISH AREN'T ALWAYS FISH

---

John 21:1-14 (p. 1687)

April 28, 2019

*Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore,  
but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.  
He called out to them, "Friends, have you any fish?"*  
John 21:4-5

## **Going back to fishing**

*Afterward, Jesus appeared again to his disciples . . . .  
It happened this way . . . .*  
John 21:1

- 1) When confused, go back to WHAT I KNOW
- 2) Recognizing Jesus is always a matter of FAITH

## **Miracle mash up**

*He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."  
When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.*  
John 21:6

## **Building disciple faith**

*Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"  
As soon as Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him  
. . . and jumped into the water.*  
John 21:7

## **A sermon for breakfast**

*Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.*

John 21:13

## **Fish aren't always fish**

*Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore.*

*It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.*

John 21:11

1) God's provision for his kingdom is EXTRAVAGANT

2) "Fishing" only works when I ACTUALLY FOLLOW JESUS!

## **Resources for further study of John 21**

Faith in The Belgic Confession, Articles 18-21 and Lord's Day 7 at

<https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/>

James Montgomery Boice's essays at <https://www.monergism.com/these-things-are-written-so-you-may-believe>

Deffinbaugh's "This Thing Called Love" sermon at <https://bible.org/seriespage/47-what-thing-called-love-john-211-25>

Martin Lloyd-Jones' studies at <https://www.monergism.com/life-god-soul-man-john-410-13%E2%80%939314>

John MacArthur's "The Hopelessness of the Stubbornly Blind" at <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/43-51/the-hopelessness-of-the-stubbornly-blind>

Spurgeon's sermon on John 21, "Two Draughts of Fishes" at <https://www.spurgeongems.org/vols7-9/chs443.pdf>

Earl Palmer's *The Intimate Gospel* (Word, 1987). Pastor Fakkema was profoundly influenced by Palmer's chapter on John 21.+

Merrill Tenney's *John: The Gospel of Belief* (Eerdmans, 1948).

## Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 7

Q 21. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture;<sup>1</sup>

it is also a wholehearted trust,<sup>2</sup> which the Holy Spirit creates in me<sup>3</sup> by the gospel,<sup>4</sup> that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also,<sup>5</sup> forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation.<sup>6</sup>

These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1-3; James 2:19 <sup>2</sup> Rom. 4:18-21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14-16 <sup>3</sup> Matt. 16:15-17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21 <sup>5</sup> Gal. 2:20;

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10; <sup>7</sup> Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10

## Inductive Bible Study of Titus

*For you have been born again . . . through the living and enduring word of God.*

1 Peter 1:23

We have two weeks to prepare for a sermon series on Titus, to be encouraged by Paul's word for the church. This is time for an in-depth exercise of Observation, Interpretation, and Application.

Monday-Wednesday: Pray for the Spirit to lead your reading

Read Paul's letter in three different versions. I recommend a NIV-ESV-*The Message* kind of arrangement. What are the key differences and points of agreement among the versions?

Thursday: Pray for Spirit led eyes to see this text

Write four observation questions from Chapter 1. Focus both on Paul's preaching and the qualifications for elders.

Friday: Pray for Spirit opened ears to hear God's word in this text

Write four observation questions from Chapter 2, listening especially for God's word to our church in this text.

Saturday: Pray for

Write several observation questions from Chapter 3 which touches on our relationships with those outside the church.

Monday-Wednesday:

Write down two or three interpretation questions for each chapter of Titus. Which questions are most critical for the church today?

Thursday-Saturday:

This letter is written to every church that is thinking seriously and biblically about elders. How have commentators applied this passage to the contemporary church? How has the ACRC understood the role of elder? Write down several application questions that will help you