

Last Week's Sermon Summary

『Fishing at Dawn』

Pastor Takaaki Inoue
John 21:1~14

❶ 【 Christ who appears in the resurrected form many times】

Today I will tell the story of Jesus, who appeared in the resurrected form on the shores of the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberias). According to John, it was the third time, but according to the book of Acts (verse 14), it appeared for 40 days (Acts 1:3). I believe that the reason why He appeared in the resurrection over and over again was for the education of his disciples.

❷ 【Learning from the two catches of nothing】 Peter and his six disciples got into a boat and went fishing. But we didn't catch anything that night. In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 5, there is also a story of "fishing that catches nothing." Why do we find stories of similar experiences in the Bible?

(1) People repeat the same experiences and the same mistakes. This is true for one person, and the same experience is repeated by many people throughout the ages. All of these stories are written as precedents and for us to learn from them. If you make the same mistakes over and over again, something is wrong. The Bible says, "This is about me!" I have to read it.

(2) What do John and Luke have in common about their fishing that they can take nothing? "We spent the whole night unloading our nets and fishing" and "we didn't catch anything." What's the difference? Luke said, "Jesus was in the boat," and John's said "Jesus was on land." The Jesus in the boat is the form before the resurrection, and the Jesus on the land is the form after

the resurrection. The lake symbolizes the unstable world, and the land symbolizes the shores of the kingdom of God. However, both of them had to follow Christ's instructions to have the experience of a great catch. In Luke we are told, "Go out to sea, unload your nets, and fish" (Luke 5:4), and Peter says, "Teacher, we toiled all night, but we got nothing. But since it is your word, let's take down the net." (Luke 5:5), and he did as he said. John said, "Cast a net on the right side of the boat, and you will get it." (John 21:6), and when the disciples cast their nets as they were told, they caught 153 fish. Hieronymus in the 4th century interpreted the 153 fish to mean that all kinds of fish in the Mediterranean would be saved. One scholar also interpreted it as "the right side of the boat means foreigners." If we struggle and don't get any results, we easily draw conclusions by thinking, "If this doesn't change, it's useless to do it anymore." This is especially true of evangelism. I think there are some things that we make up our minds about before we share the gospel. They think that the yakuza can't do it, that their parents can't do it, that this person can't do it, and they don't even preach the gospel at all. As I read this, I began to have the courage to tell everyone clearly. This is a test of "who is sovereign?" It is a test of whether you are the master or Christ is the master. It is a test of whether you will do it at your own discretion or become a servant who obeys God's word. They give answers because they are the masters. I don't give an answer. You have to be me.

❸ 【Have breakfast with Christ】

When the disciples went ashore, the morning meal was already prepared. ↗

Weekly Report

The United Church of Christ in Japan

Miyakojima Church

Mission Established December 1, 1957

Church Established December 2, 2001

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《Three Questions to Peter》

Miyakojima Church's 2025 Mission Policy

Motto : "Let's prepare for the construction of the church "

Scripture : " The toil of those who build houses is in vain, unless the Lord Himself builds them " (Psalm 127:1)

Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 27 people to attend services.
- 2 We invite one person to worship in one year.
- 3 We value the fellowship of believers.
- 4 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.