

The Commission of the Risen Saviour

John 21:1-25

I. THE ONLY TRUE METHOD OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE – THE LORD’S (John 21:1-14)

A. The Failure of Man’s Program (John 21:1-5)

1. The failure of human design (John 21:1-3; Genesis 6:5; Proverbs 14:12)
 - a. Appearance of Jesus at the sea of Galilee (John 21:1)
 - b. To seven of the disciples (John 21:2)
 - c. Following the lead of Peter (John 21:3)
 - 1) He returns to fishing – “I go a fishing” probably meant that he had decided to return to his old career.
 - 2) These disciples go with him – someone follows you wherever you go.
2. The failure of human effort (John 21:3; John 15:5; Zechariah 4:6)
 - a. They entered a ship immediately.
 - b. They caught nothing all night (compare Luke 5:5).
3. The failure of human vision (John 21:4; Proverbs 29:18)
 - a. The morning was come.
 - b. Jesus stood on the shore.
 - c. They knew not that it was Jesus (John 20:14; Luke 24:15-16).
4. The failure of human provision (John 21:5; Psalm 49:7)
 - a. Question: “have ye any meat?”
 - b. Answer: “No”

B. The Success of God’s Program (John 21:6-14)

1. God’s design in His word (John 21:6; Psalm 119:105, 133)
 - a. The instructions of the Lord
 - b. The promise of the Lord – “ye shall find.”
 - c. The obedience of the disciples
 - d. The abundance of the blessing
 - e. The end of their abilities – “not able to draw it”
2. God’s opening of their eyes (John 21:7; 2 Kings 6:15-17; Hebrews 11:27)
 - a. His recognition by the disciple closest to Him
 - 1) John – the disciple whom Jesus loved
 - 2) He said, “It is the Lord.”

- b. The response of Peter
 - 1) He heard the message.
 - 2) He covered his nakedness (Genesis 3:7-10).
 - 3) He cast himself into the sea.
3. God's blessing on their effort (John 21:8-9; Psalm 127:1)
 - a. The other disciples (John 21:8)
 - 1) Came in a little ship
 - 2) Only 200 cubits from land
 - 3) Dragging the net of fish
 - b. The ready meal (John 21:9)
 - 1) The fire of coals
 - 2) The fish on the coals
 - 3) The bread on the coals
 - 4) Problem: where did Jesus get all this? He shows that He is the source of all provision (Psalm 23:1; Romans 8:32; Philippians 4:19).
4. God's preserving of His fruit (John 21:10-11; John 15:16; 2 Timothy 1:12)
 - a. Commanded to bring their catch (John 21:10)
 - b. A total of 153 great fish (John 21:11); similar to the number of strangers – 153,600 – Solomon counted in the land of Israel (2 Chronicles 2:17). Perhaps Jesus is showing them that the greatest part of their catch of men will be among the strangers, or Gentiles.
 - c. So many, yet the net was not broken (John 21:11); God's callings are God's enablings (1 Thessalonians 5:24).
5. God's provision for His own (John 21:12-14)
 - a. Feasting (John 21:12-13; Psalm 23:5)
 - 1) Come and dine (John 21:12).
 - 2) They knew it was Jesus (John 21:12).
 - 3) Jesus ate with them (John 21:13; Luke 24:41-43).
 - b. Fellowship (John 21:14; 1 John 1:3, 7)
 - 1) His third appearance to the disciples
 - 2) Further proof of His resurrection