**Money Matters**

**The Voice from The Shore: Part 2**

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# SERMON DESCRIPTION

When God shows up, everything changes. Do not panic in seasons of uncertainty, one direction from God can change your financial situation.

# SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?

* When God shows up, everything changes in your finances.

1. Why do they need to know it?

* One word from God is worth a thousand days of labour.

1. How should we apply it?

* Listen for the voice/direction of the Lord.

**BACKGROUND**

Somewhere between the Passover and the day of Pentecost (50 days), Christ appears to seven of the disciples by the Sea of Tiberius. He does not find them in prayer or engaged in some other spiritual activity, but on a boat, in the middle of the sea, fishing. The resurrected Christ shows up in the most unspectacular way, like a common man standing on the shore. This is a far cry from the man who walked on water, spoke to storms, and walked through walls and locked doors. This common appearance masked His identity to all except one disciple – John. How many times does God intervene in our lives, but we cannot recognize Him because the entrance is much too humble?

Jesus asks them a common and straightforward question from the shore, “Have you caught anything?” Having worked all night at a craft from which they made their living and showing no fruit for their efforts they answer with a resounding, “NO!” When God asks us questions, He is not looking for information but rather wants us to stop and consider what we are missing. Christ tells them to cast their net on the other/right side of the boat. At that point, they were probably willing to try anything, but to their surprise they acquired the catch of their lives. Yay God!

The disciples waste an entire night exerting maximum energy and receive nothing for their labours. But when God shows up on the shore, one command makes all the difference in the world. In fact, their catch was literally a few feet away and they were not aware. Small adjustments that come from the proceeding Word of God make a huge difference in our lives.

This story is not about how to catch a ton of fish or anything else for that matter; it is about the difference that Christ makes to our productivity when we listen and obey His ways of doing things. It is essential that we learn to discern the instructions of Christ and obey His commands quickly and fully. God desires to give His people a greater return on their investment, and specifically increase the harvest to output ratio. The key is to enact the wisdom of God.

What were these seven disciples doing out in the middle of the sea anyway? After all, Christ had risen from the dead and had appeared to them twice before this, was there not something more important to do than fish? Many times, our lives become clogged with activity that produces no real or lasting results. One of the keys to the maximization of output is to eliminate activity that bears no fruit in our lives.

Although the text does not come right out and give us the motivation for them being on this fishing expedition, consider some possibilities.

* At the center of this trip, Peter is the leader of the Apostles. It was his idea to go in the first place and the others were right behind him. Peter is at a point in his life where he probably has more questions than answers.
* His denial of Christ (three times, no less) was a colossal failure that was only eclipsed by the betrayal of Judas. Even though Peter cried many tears of repentance, at this point, he is far from restored.
* To intensify the matter, Christ has appeared to all of them twice and yet He has not addressed or reinstated Peter.
* In fact, Christ appears and disappears, and the Apostles seem confused and maybe even disillusioned with all that they have experienced in the last three years.

Their future must have seemed clear as mud at such a critical time in their lives. Being impetuous and a man of action, Peter decides to go fishing; an activity and lifestyle he is familiar with and comfortable. Can you imagine his irritation when he cannot be successful at the thing he knows best? Perhaps this explains the short and curt answer back to Christ, “NO” to His inquiry of the catch. How often we as believers venture back to a familiar life of the past when we deem that God has not worked things out for us in manner that we designed in our minds. At times, God will place our lives in a “holding pattern” sort-to-speak so that He can work on our character as well as our dream.

Generally speaking, many poor decisions are made in this season because we take matters into our own hands and try to change our lives for the better, but in fact, we may be working against the “process” of God. In these seasons of discouragement is best to stop, look and listen to what God is trying to covey to us.

Peter is the first person in the boat and the first one out when He recognized that it was the Lord on the shore. He reappears again to lend a hand as the other six disciples struggle to haul in the catch without Peter.

# OPENING LINE

***When God shows up, everything changes!***

# CENTRAL TRUTH

In seasons of financial uncertainty, do not focus on your financial situation, but rather look for God to show up and listen to the voice from the shore.

# MAIN PASSAGE

**Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples**

**John 21: 1-14**

**1** After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself:* **2**Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. **3**Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.”

They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+21%3A+1-14&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-26902a)]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. **5**Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?”

They answered Him, “No.” **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.

**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.

* John knew it was the Lord – how?

**8**But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. **9**Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. **10**Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.”

* You caught – human ability
* Jesus gives the disciples credit

**11**Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

* The Bible is so specific
* 153 – the number of God’s elect, revival, in gathering harvest

**12**Jesus said to them, “Come *and* eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord.

* They knew it was the Lord on the shore but not on the boat

**13**Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. **14**This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

# MAIN POINTS

**The recession proof formula = SUPERNATURAL POWER + NATURAL MEANS + HUMAN ABILITY**

It is amazing to observe the number of times that Jesus impacted the daily lives of the disciples, particularly in financial resources.

Through His direction and supernatural power, Jesus was always communicating to the disciples that finances were never to be their priority or their worry.

With their focus in the right place, their Father in heaven would always take care of them. Jesus continually displayed power over natural resources but always drew their attention to greater things.

Note:

* Seven disciples went out and caught nothing
* One Man shows up on the shore with an answer
* One man jumps ship
* Six men bring in the haul
* Seven men help on the shore
* Eight men have breakfast – new beginnings.

**What Is ‘Right” Side of The Boat?**

**What happens when the Lord shows up?**

1. **Pay attention to the questions that are being asked of you!**
   1. *When God asks questions of you, He’s not looking for information but rather to change your focus.*
   2. What is the Lord asking you?
   3. Jesus showed up in such a humble manner that the disciples did not know it was Him, only John recognized that it was the Lord.
      1. How often we may miss God when He shows up because he appears in unexpected ways.
      2. We are not told why John was able to recognize Jesus:

* Perhaps it was His voice
* Perhaps it was His mannerism
* Perhaps John discerned Him in his spirit
* This would also suggest to us that we should fellowship with people that know the Lord more than we know Him personally
  1. “Have you any food’? Jesus was asking a simple question: do you have any food for breakfast?
     1. Being able to hear and recognize the voice of the Lord is critical to life, it may come in the simplest forms and yet it is transformational
     2. Direction – Jesus gave the seven disciples instructions where to cast the net – the result was astonishing.

1. **You maybe be closer to your biggest “catch” than you realize—so close and yet so far** 
   1. ***Small adjustments can make a huge difference***
   2. Do not give up too quickly – do not stop short
   3. It is obvious that there is not a wall that divides the right and the left side of the boat under the water and yet these seasoned and professional fishermen were not able to catch anything all night.

* 1. When Jesus told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat, it indicates that they were so close and yet so far.
     1. Without the word of Christ, they would have come back dejected and empty-handed even though the fish were so close.
     2. There is a principal here, how many times have we been so close to our blessing and a breakthrough and yet it only happens at the direction of the Lord.
     3. Therefore, our ability to receive from Christ is connected to our ability to hear from Him.
  2. Their hard work and abilities failed them but when God shows up, He makes all the difference.
  3. Poor decisions can be made when we are in a holding pattern.
     1. People can lose their focus on God and become discouraged in this season
     2. It is easy to return to the familiar rather than wait for the Lord.

1. **Manage your time and your effort**
   1. ***One day a favour is worth 1000 days of labour!***
   2. They toiled all night and caught nothing
   3. God wants you to maximize your potential and cause your effort to prosper
   4. These were the very same disciples that could not stay awake with Jesus for one hour in prayer and yet they were able to stay up all night fishing
      1. This suggests that we have enough energy for the things that we love doing
      2. Peter and the other disciples most likely dug in their heels, sort-to-speak, they did not want to leave defeated and fruitless and so they stayed out there all night
      3. No doubt a level of frustration and irritation became part of their night

* Determination is NOT always the right answer.

1. **Expect the unexpected - “The net was not broken” – nothing will be lost** 
   1. Despite the number of large fish, the net was not broken. This means that the expectation was that the net should have broken under the stress of such a load.
      1. People generally expect the worst and not the best. Expect:

* God to show up
* Good things to happen
* Blessings to arrive
* Things to hold up rather than breakdown
* Prosperity vs. poverty
* Things to turn around
* Ruth of the Old Testament – her Boaz changed her life
* Look for the good – the win (Romans 8:28)
  1. What about people who make money dishonestly?
     1. Having money has nothing to do with being blessed, many people have money and are cursed
* As your soul prospers: For example, Chandler, the star form the sitcom *“Friends”* says he has spent $9 million dollars trying to get sober.

**Proven Principles of Finances**

1. Honour God first and foremost—this means Mammon is not your God
2. Create a zero-based budget - you need to know where every dollar is going
3. Save more than you spend and do it for a long time
4. Create multiple streams of revenue
5. Do not use money to medicate your soul
6. Get advice from trusted experts - someone that knows more than you
7. Pay yourself – through savings.

# QUOTES & STICKY STATEMENTS

*When Jesus arrived on the scene, the scenario changed.*

*“Watch your spending” ~David Fraser*

*One day of favour is worth a thousand days of labour.*

*Small adjustments can make a huge difference.*

In seasons of uncertainty, don’t chase money. Let money chase after you – focus on the One who holds it all.

There’s a fine line between determination and stubbornness.

*When Jesus came into your life, your life changed.  
  
Waiting: When God shows up everything changes.*

*We ought to learn to put our trust in God.*

*Formula=Supernatural power [God of miracles] + natural means + human ability.*

*God is the greatest fish-finder there is.*

*God is going to use you—you are part of the formula.*

*Pay attention to the questions that are being asked of you: [God asks + people asks]. God asks us questions sometimes to refocus our attention. When God asks a question, He's not looking for information, He's trying to refocus our attention.*

*You may be closer to your biggest catch than you realize. God is holding the fish from you in the night so that you can get your biggest catch in the morning.*

*Small adjustments make a big difference, particularly when God is telling you to make them; God is smarter at your business than you are.*

*Manage your time and your effort.*

*Expect the unexpected. Hang around people that know the Lord more than you.  
  
Jesus shows up in our lives in a humble way.  
  
The Lord has you in a holding pattern.*

*Part of faith is that God is not going to tell you everything.*

*There are seasons of uncertainty, and it is very easy to go back to where you have come from.*

*There's a fine line between determination and stubbornness.*

# SERMON CONCLUSION – THE CALL TO ACTION

Despite the incredible catch, Jesus pointed the disciples to the greater call in Him.

Don’t chase money, let money chase you.

**“Your Father knows that you have need of all these things”**

**Matthew 6:8**

"Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has the still small voice of Christ made a difference in your finances?
2. Describe a time that God was speaking to you and yet you did not know it was Him?
3. Make a list of people around you that you believe know God more than you do.
4. List three biblical ways in which you can get to know the voice of the Lord more intimately.
5. Why do you believe John recognized Jesus when everyone else did not?
6. What is the conclusion of the story? How does Jesus point the disciples to greater works than this massive catch of fish?
7. Why do you believe that Peter wanted to go fishing in the first place? Why do you believe he was the first one out of the boat when he recognized that the Lord was on the shore?
8. What do you believe the 153 fish represent? Why do you believe it was counted?