

“P.S. Meet with Me Before I Go”

John 21:1-19

[“The Miners’ Angel,” story of Nellie Cashman]

After His resurrection, Jesus had a series of encounters with His disciples. In each of these appearances, Jesus taught His disciples life lessons, lessons that would strengthen their faith and ministry. This specific encounter took place by the Sea of Galilee, as seven of the disciples had been fishing all night. What did Jesus teach His disciples? What did they learn from this encounter?

1. **Our Lord is at work in our circumstances** (vv. 3-6)

“...That night they caught nothing.” v. 3b

“Cast the net on the right side of the boat...” v. 6

- They caught no fish; it seemed their fishing expedition was a failure. Jesus told them to fish on the right side of the boat to catch fish. In our failure, at our lowest point, the Lord is there. He tells us to do the right thing. He will help us, because He is the Good Shepherd.
- The disciples were discouraged, exhausted, and hungry. When they came ashore, Jesus had prepared a breakfast of fish and bread. Our Lord works in our circumstances and meets our needs. Are your circumstances a mess? Are you tired, exhausted, and feeling like a failure? Come to Jesus and let Him minister to you; let Him help you.

2. **Our Lord forgives and restores us** (vv. 15-17, 19b)

“Feed My lambs.” v. 15b

“Shepherd My sheep.” v. 16b

“Feed My sheep.” v. 17b

“Follow Me!” v. 19b

- Peter, the leader of the disciples, had publicly denied knowing Jesus three different times. Jesus gave Peter the opportunity to publicly acknowledge Him three times.
- Peter was restored to leadership by Jesus Himself. Jesus told Peter to feed and shepherd His flock. He stated emphatically, ***“Follow Me!”***
- When you and I genuinely turn away from our sins, Jesus is faithful to forgive us and restore us. Our God is a god of second chances; One who allows us to begin again. We see that forgiveness and restoration in the lives of Moses, Samson, David, and John Mark. Do you need forgiveness? Do you need to be restored? Do you need to follow Jesus? Come to Him—He loves you and cares about your life.