

## Cast Your Net On The Other Side.

Where are you in a habit of casting your net? On the right side or the left side?

John 21:1-11 NIV

“Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus ), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 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, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. 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. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and

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

As fisherman they probably always fished from the same side of the boat. When they sailed out from the shore and they probably went to the same fishing grounds. They would approach the grounds from the same direction. They most likely threw the net over the same side of the boat. On the windward side so the boat wouldn't drift over the net.

Let's imagine them fishing from the the left side of the boat. They throw the net out or maybe they drop the net. Maybe they row around in a circle to entrap the fish. They probably did things the same way every time.

This time they fished all night and caught nothing.

And they came back tired. And discouraged. And hungry. And then here's this man on the beach who asking them, “Did you catch any fish?”

Couldn't he see the boat was sitting high in the water  
Couldn't he tell they were coming back empty?

And then he says, “Throw the net over the RIGHT side of the boat and you'll find some.”

Well, first, they're almost back to the shore not at their usual fishing grounds.

Second, they're thinking what difference does it make if the net goes over the left side or the right side?

And what does this man know since they're in the boat and he's standing on the shore?

They were thinking he's not a fisherman. At least not from around there or they would have recognized him. And if he was a fisherman, he would have known they didn't have any fish in the boat.

They were about a hundred yards from the shore. That's quite a distance to shout. What could the man see that they couldn't see? Was there was a disturbance on the water? If there was, they would have seen something or heard something. Like when you're in a boat and mackerel are breaking the water.

They must have thought, "This guy is nuts. Give us a break. We've been out all night long. We're tired. We're hungry. We didn't catch a thing. And he wants us to cast our net out again?"

But they did what he said. Why? Why would they do what some stranger on the shore was telling them to do?

They were tired, hungry, frustrated, and they just wanted to go home and go to bed. They could have told him to

mind his own business. But for some unknown reason, some strange reason, they didn't. They did as they had been told to do.

They did as they were told without **ANY** expectation of something happening. Why would something happen? Why would anything happen? Nothing had happened all through this long tiring night.

But that was the night. This was the morning.

Fished all last night. No fish. There was nothing. Just nothing. There were **NO** results for **all** their effort. But, THIS is the morning.

And Jesus Christ is standing on the sea shore. And Jesus Christ knows something they don't know.

The power of the Lord God Almighty was waiting to be let loose. I could imagine Jesus getting excited. Knowing He was going to do a miracle that would absolutely shake His disciples' world.

And there's the Lord sitting back with a smile on His face. Thoroughly enjoying this moment. You know He takes such pleasure in His children. And in helping His children. He takes such pleasure in helping you and me.

“Cast your net on the **RIGHT** side of the boat”.

Ever think Jesus was saying they had been casting their net on the **WRONG** side of the boat?

Not on the **LEFT** side. But on the **WRONG** side?

Not on the right side but on the wrong side?

What about you and I? Are we casting our net on the wrong side? Are we looking this way when we should be looking that way?

Are we trying **OUR** best when we should be doing it the **Lord's** way.

Psalm 118:8 says, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man".

Someone might say, "But you don't understand. I **DO** trust in the Lord. I **AM** trusting in the Lord."

Okay, are you following **His** Word? Are you seeking **His** direction? Have you prayed and asked **AND** waited?

What side of the boat are you casting your net? The right side or the wrong side? Your side or the Lord's side?

We often pray that the Lord will be on **OUR** side. Have we ever prayed that we would be on the **LORD'S** side?

We used to sing a song years ago. “Tell me who’s report are you going to believe? I will believe the report of the Lord”.

What happens when we believe the report of the Lord? What happens when we do what **HE** tells us to do? What happens when we cast our net where **HE** tells us to?

What happens when we do **HIS** will instead of doing our own will? What happens? Our net will be full. We will have so much in our net we will not be able to contain it.

And this is not about us making an effort in order to get the Lord to give us something. It’s about casting your net where the Lord says to cast your net. And then expecting to get what He knows you need.

The Lord was standing on the shore. He called out to His disciples. And His disciples didn’t recognize Him.

He told them to do something they had not been able to do on their own.

They needed Him. They needed His direction. They needed His help.

How did the Lord help them? Did He go out and throw the net over the other side? Did He go out in another boat and catch fish for them?

No, He **TOLD** them what to do. He gave them **specific** directions. He told them to do that would bring **them** results. He told them what it would take for them to be successful.

And you. What do you want from the Lord? Are you willing to ask Him, wait on Him, and listen for Him? And are you then willing to do what He tells you to do?

Or are you going to just keep doing it your way? Casting your net on the wrong side of the boat. And then you wonder why on earth you're not getting the results you were hoping for.

You're not getting the results you hoped for because your answer is not "on earth". It is in heaven. Brought to you by the God who lives INSIDE you. The God who knows you, who knows what's best for you, and who wants to bless you.

Which of us know which side of the boat holds the answer, that brings the result we are looking for?

There are two ways of finding the answer to our question. Two ways of finding the solution to our problem.

Firstly, pray and read the Word.

Secondly, pray and then ask someone if they know what the Word says about the answer you are seeking.

So what happened when the disciples obeyed the Lord? When they did what the Lord told them to do?

They caught fish. They caught fish. But not just “fish”. These was a large number of fish. And they were large fish.

A large number of large fish that **SHOULD HAVE** broken their net. But their net didn’t break. Why not? Because they obeyed the Lord. To the letter. And they were blessed because of it.

Now how does this apply to you and I? What kind of “fish” do we want to catch?

Healing fish? Miracle fish? Financial fish? Family salvation fish? A new job fish? Peace fish?

Whatever “fish” you need will be caught by fishing on the side that Jesus is on. By casting your net - your hopes, your needs, your dreams and your desires - to where the answer is. To where Jesus tells you the answer is.



And there is only one source for the answer. The bible.  
The Word of God.

If you're not reading your bible on a daily basis, you are fishing on the wrong side of the boat. You are depending on you. You are depending on what **you're** doing. And you're depending on what you've done in the past that worked.

You're trusting in you; not in Jesus Christ.

Will trusting in yourself work? Sure it will. Some times.

But when you're desperate and you NEED His help, there is only one fishing ground that has the fish YOU need.

Jump out of your boat. Leave where it's comfortable. And get yourself to Jesus. He's where you need to be.

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