

## UNSUCCESSFUL FISHERMEN – JOHN 21

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INTRO: One cannot read this account without having a sense that many important lessons were being taught. This impression is heightened when we recognize that this incident took place between the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ.

### I. THE STORY ITSELF

- a. The decision of Peter- The inactivity was telling- to go a fishing
- b. The night of further trial
- c. The stranger on the shore- “lads, ye have, I suppose nothing to eat”
- d. Cast your net on the right side
- e. The startling result
- f. John’s conclusion and Peter’s action
- g. No doubt the events in Luke 5 sprang to the mind
- h. Come and dine
- i. The interview with Peter
- j. Follow thou me

### II. THE LESSONS WHICH WERE TAUGHT

- a. The importance of Divinely directed labors
  - i. The decision had been made without prayer- “I go a fishing”
  - ii. There doubtless had been a night long strategy conference trying to find an answer
  - iii. But all was fruitless
  - iv. The surprising result when the same net was cast into same lake at Christ’s command
  - v. How often, if we are honest we must \_\_\_ confess failures- no souls saved and how two \_\_\_ that plans have been laid with only \_\_\_ prayer and the program has been carried out with a great deal of discretion but without the distinct leading of the Lord
  - vi. How much difference there is when all of this is changed and replaced by Christ – directed service- fishing in the same lake- preaching the same gospel, to the same folks- but with far different results
- b. Spotlighting the trouble point-
  - i. Lovest thou me more than thee?
  - ii. Not lovest thou me?- But lovest thou me more than thee?
  - iii. Christ has prominence but not preeminence – often time in gospel churches

CONC: The church at Laodicea, was materially rich but spiritually poor- her blinded \_\_\_ failed to see her own lack of success.

As Christian workers how shall we \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ have ye any meat? Are you having real success or only paper success?

These are days of deep crisis- something better than the general \_\_\_ is needed in the work of God. We pay lip service and the Lordship of Christ- We need to practice it!

Invitation

ILLUS: Man who insisted all the gold in the world was found in Mexico and Peru- when gold was found in California. He called it \_\_\_

This sermon outline is being provided for your personal study. It is part of a project to transcribe and preserve the personal sermon notes of Dr. G. A. Woolsey who has gone home to be with our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. More info can be found at:  
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