



Sunday Teaching Guide

That You May Believer, Week 7

April 23, 2023

Bible Texts

- Hebrews 13:8
- John 21:1-14
- Matthew 14:22-32
- Psalm 24:1
- Ephesians 2:8-10

Important Terms

- Ghost - in Greek, this word is "phantasma", which is the same root English uses for the word "phantom."

Sermon Notes

- After Jesus' resurrection, some disciples went on a boat to fish and caught nothing all night. In the morning, Jesus -- whom they did not recognize -- stood on the shore and told them to cast out their nets one more time. They do so and are unable to haul in the large number of fish. At this, they realize it's Jesus and Peter dives in to swim to him.
- This isn't the only story in the Bible of the disciples not recognizing Jesus while on the water. In the Gospel of Matthew, the disciples are in a boat at night during a storm and Jesus walks out to them on the water. They are terrified, thinking it's a ghost. When Peter recognizes Jesus, he asks to come onto the water with him but he becomes afraid, sinks, and Jesus rescues him. In both instances, Peter wants to be with Jesus, his savior.
- Back in the Gospel of John, the disciples tow their boat with a net full of fish to the shore and a fire is already burning with fish on it and some bread. The disciples had just caught the most fish of their lives, but Jesus was already cooking. We imagine God is waiting on us to do all the work, when the reality is that God is at work and it's us who need to meet him there.
- The earth is the Lord's, and we are called to be good stewards of this world. We are to care for the world God has created, and a huge part of that is because God is here, active and working. He's not absent, but inviting us to join him. We're to care for this world, for the creation he loves, and to share his love, grace, and mercy with this world and all those who live in it.

Reflection Questions

- Peter is so eager to see Jesus that he jumps out of the boat to swim to him. Describe a time in which you were extremely eager to see someone or to have something happen? What was that feeling like?
- After his resurrection, why do you think that Jesus chooses to reveal his true identity through performing a miracle? Why do you think Jesus doesn't just tell the disciples who he is?
- Why do you think the disciples had trouble seeing Jesus sometimes? What deeper meaning might this have?
- What do you make of the idea that God is already working and that it's us who have to meet him where he is working?
- How do you see God working in your life or in the lives of others?
- Do you feel yourself as a good steward of this world? What are some ways that you serve as a good steward? What are some ways that you could improve?
- In what ways could you better use your resources to participate in God's work in this world?

Prayer for the Week

- O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbors. As his disciples in this age, we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe in which we are privileged to live and our neighbors with whom we share it. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Acts 9:1-20
- Psalm 30
- Revelation 5:11-14