

05.25.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Life in His Name”

Scripture Reading: [John 21:1-14](#)

Reflection: Rev. George Vink

The Apostle John had a purpose in mind writing his gospel. He placed it between Jesus’ second and third appearances as we’ve considered. Those huddled together when he first appeared to them reacted by being “overjoyed.” At his second appearance, Thomas reacted uniquely with the declaration, “My Lord and my God.” John’s purpose, “...that by believing you may have life in his name.” (Jn 20:31) And so, putting it plainly, life is more than going fishing!

Peter announced he was going fishing. It was something he knew how to do. Fishing for men as Jesus had called him to do hadn’t materialized...yet! The others followed with, “We’ll go with you.” Seems familiar. Seems like something fishermen would do.

But no success! Coming back, discouraged, and disheartened for many reasons, they’re close to shore. A voice comes from there, “Friends, caught any?” The voice doesn’t ask, “My disciples, what are you doing out there?” Then, hearing their despondent answer, “No,” the friend onshore suggests and promises, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” Right on! People on shore always know better.

The result must have surprised them. A huge haul! Then, one of them recognized Jesus, and using Thomas’ designation of “Lord,” tells Peter. No surprise, Peter gets decent, and jumps out of the boat, only to jump back in to help haul the catch. Yet, Jesus didn’t need their fish, nor their bread. He had breakfast ready and wanted to talk with them, especially Peter. They realize who it was but say little as Jesus feeds them. What a silence that must have been! Who looked at whom and who dared to smile or wink?

What was happening? Why did they even obey the friend onshore? Good fishermen are in the boat, not onshore! The lesson is in their obedience. Their calling was to become fishers of men, and that required first of all, obedience! Our “life in his name” calls for the same. And, obedience is rewarded with results, even overflowing results. We’ll also experience God’s providing when we respond obediently to our calling, our mission in life. Life in Christ’s name calls for the commitment of obedience, resulting in blessings of God’s providence.

Jesus didn’t need their fish. He supplied what was needed, nurturing them at his table. He does the same for those who obey and are committed to living “life in his name.” He’ll feed them at his table as commanded in John 13, saying, “Do this in remembrance....” You’ve heard the words. And doing so, you “live life in his name,” obedient to the calling placed on your heart. Your net may not overflow or stretch, but you’ll be obedient. And that’s a response God blesses!

Prayer:

Father, thank you for a lesson in obedience. Thank you, that though, like the disciples, we desire to do what's comfortable, you call us to an obedient commitment of faithfulness, living life in Jesus' name in the manner we're gifted to do. Use others, fellow disciples, who'll say "It's the Lord," to point us in the right direction, and encourage us to faithfulness. Amen.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Take a hard look, an honest look, to see where or when was the last time you resorted to the familiar and avoided doing what you knew was the "right thing to do," or simple obedience was expected of you. Ask for forgiveness and, like Peter, jump back in and do what's needed.

Songs for today:

[Open The Eyes of My Heart, Lord](#)

[Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult](#)