

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Exodus 20:1-17 and John 21

SINGING: 181:1-4 – 328:1, 3 – 223:1-3 – 358:3-4 – Dox # 8 – 368:1, 4, 5

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| JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIS KINGDOM LABORERS |
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I. That He often uses our failures to bless us (vs. 1-4)

A. Why they 'went fishing' is unclear, yet it is clear that their efforts failed

B. Their failure despite best efforts opened the door to blessing in learning

C. Let's learn from our failures or our inability to bring success

II. That with Him alone we will have success (vs. 5-6)

A. In God's Kingdom *nothing* will succeed except by His sovereign power

B. Success in ministry is never due to the *instrument* (John 3:27; 15:5)

III. That He doesn't need us though is pleased to use us (vs. 9-10; 12-13)

IV. That He is not unmindful of our His laborers' needs (vs. 9-13)

A. Labor in God's kingdom can be very discouraging and wearying

B. Therefore Christ invites His laborers: *Come and Dine of what I prepared*

V. That love is the most important ingredient in all our service to Christ

A. Jesus questions to Peter plump our inner motivation to Him (vs. 15-17)

1. There is a growing climax in Jesus' 3 questions

2. These questions search our *motivation* for all our Kingdom labor

B. True grace reveals itself in love (vs. 15-17)

VI. That our love to Christ is to be expressed in devotion to His sheep

A. Kingdom laborers are to care for Christ's people (vs. 10-11; 15-17)

1. We are to *be fishers of men* but also *shepherds of His sheep*

B. Our care is to be according to the needs of His people (vs. 15-17)

1. Not all His people are similar: *there are lambs and sheep*

a. lambs: *young believers with beginning God's work of grace*

b. sheep: *more established believers*

2. Our task is the *feed them appropriately* (1 Tim. 4:12-16)

C. The 'laborer's task' is given us by risen Lord Himself

VII. That our main duty is to follow Christ (vs. 18-19)

A. Lord warns Peter about the *coming test of his love*: vs. 18

B. Our sole duty is *to follow our Lord* (vs. 19-23)

THOUGHTS ON THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE MINISTRY

Nearness to Christ, intimacy with Him, assimilation to His character –
these are the elements of a ministry of power. (H. Bonar)

Churches are looking for better methods:
God is looking for better men. (E. Bounds)

Any ministry in the Kingdom calls for a live man, a real man, a true
man, a simple man, great in his love, great in his life, great in his
work, great in his simplicity, great in his gentleness. (J. Hall)

Prayer, meditation and temptation make a minister. (Luther)

Any serving in ministry should have a mind of a scholar, the heart of
a child, and the hide of a rhinoceros. His biggest challenge is how to
toughen his hide without hardening his heart. (Havner)