

Scripture: Ten Commandments (Ex. 20) – John 21
Singing: 308:1-3 – 428:1 – 367:1,3, 4 – 357:3-4 – 44:1-4

THE DISCIPLE'S DOUBLE BLESSING

I. An empty net II. A full net

I. THE DISCIPLES' BLESSING IN AN EMPTY NET

A. John's record of the fishing experience is to instruct us

1. It is not teaching them that they did anything wrong (Matt. 28:10)
2. It taught them a necessary and humbling lesson (John 15:4-5)

B. But why would an 'empty net after honest labor' be a blessing?

1. to teach them we cannot save any sinners
2. to make them look away from 'use of means' to Giver of blessings'

C. Personal reflection:

1. "No" was a short answer (vs. 5) after a long struggle (vs. 3-4)
 - a. a reward on labor makes the labor sweet
 - b. a fruitlessness on labor makes the labor hard

II. THE DISCIPLES' BLESSING IN A FULL NET

A. Their obedience to a 'stranger' is remarkable (vs. 4-6)

1. How explain?
2. Full net was a double miracle (vs. 11)
3. Why written? (John 20:31)

B. Jesus' words in vs. 6 are a *command & promise*

1. What is God's command to us as *leaders – church?* (Lk. 24:47-48)
2. What is God promise?
 - a. 'catching fish' is not *because* our efforts but *because* His promise

Reflection: God has joined always **command and promise** together!

A. True for all laboring for the King and His Kingdom: Romans. 10:17

B. True for all of us personally: Matthew 7:1-11; 15:21-28

THOUGHTS ON CHRISTIAN SERVICE

God has work to do in this world, and to desert it because of its difficulties and entanglements, is to cast off His authority. (John Owen)

Christ keeps no servants only to wear a livery (set of clothes). (W. Jenkyn)

God has many servants but little service in the world. (T. Adams)

Is it nothing for a man to employed in Christian comforting, relieving, and supporting others? This is so great a service that the very angels are employed therein. (W. Bridge)

Spiritual rest makes no man idle, spiritual walking makes no man weary. (J. King)

God is not greater if you reverence Him, but you are greater if you serve Him.
(Augustine)

If the work be done *in* Christ's name, then the honour is due *to* His Name.
(M. Henry)

We do the works, but God works in us the doing of the works. (Augustine)