

Fellowship Baptist Church, April 23, 2017, AM  
Message: "Lessons in Service" —John 21:19 (21:1-19)

INTRODUCTION: The time of these verses is not given, verse one just states "And after these things...". It probably takes place soon after the appearances of our Lord in the upper room. The disciples are still at wits end as to what is happening. Peter on the spur of the moment decides to go fishing. Sometimes a diversion helps you sort things out. There are seven of the disciples on this fishing trip. The location is the Sea of Tiberias (the Sea of Galilee). The city of Tiberias was built about 20 AD. in honor of the Roman Emperor. (The sea was called the "Sea of Galilee" by the locals, but the "Sea of Tiberias" by the Romans.) Jesus appears on the shore but is not recognized at first.

- I. Lesson one: Service is to be God directed not man directed—v. 5-11.
  - A. Man directed service will fail—v.5
    - 1. The Apostles knew how to fish. (Four of them were professional fishermen.)
    - 2. They fished all night and caught nothing.
  - B. God directed service produces results—v. 6
    - 1. Cast on the right side of the boat. (Awkward for right handed fishermen.)
    - 2. The nets were full—v. 6
    - 3. The same lesson was taught in the beginning of Jesus Ministry—Luke 5:3-7.
- II. Lesson two: Jesus can and does provide for His servants—v. 12-14. "Come and dine"
  - A. The disciples see the fish and bread already cooked—v. 9 (Where did it come from?)
    - 1. They are asked to bring what they have caught—v. 10.
    - 2. The lesson, use what you have and God will provide the rest.
  - B. God promises to meet our needs—Phil. 4:19
    - 1. The example of the wilderness wanderings—Nehemiah 9:15.
    - 2. Jesus' promise to the disciples—Matt. 6:33
    - 3. The teaching on giving—II Cor. 9:7-8
- III. Lesson three: the motivation for service is love—v. 15-17
  - A. Three times Jesus asked Peter "Do you love me?"
  - B. Jesus' response to Peter was "If you love me feed my sheep".
  - C. Service to God is to be based on love!
- IV. Lesson four: We serve according to God's will—v. 18-19. (Our service is at God discretion.)
  - A. God determines where we serve.
  - B. God determines the conditions we serve under.
  - C. God determines the length of our service—Ps. 90:10,12; 39:4.

CONCLUSION: May our service be acceptable to God!