



Gary Inrig – The Miracles (Fish Stories)

Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Stood Out To You – and “Why? (Something strike you - strange – new or different?)

Week 3 – Read Chapter Three - “Fish Stories” - Miraculous Catches of Fish

- Read – Luke 5:1-11 and John 21:1-17

Opening Prayer: Begin with prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to understand Jesus's supreme authority and what it means for our daily lives.

Overview: This chapter explores two parallel fish miracles performed by Jesus that bookend His earthly ministry—one near the beginning and one near the end after His resurrection. Both miracles occurred on the Sea of Galilee with Peter and the disciples, and both demonstrate Jesus' divine power. Both also reveal His divinity - and commission His followers for ministry. The first miracle led Peter to recognize his sinfulness in the presence of Christ's holiness and then - Christ calls him to become a fisher of men. The second miracle, after Peter's denial and restoration, is recommissioned by Jesus to feed and care for God's people. These miracles reveal that Christ's power makes the impossible possible, His presence serves to drive us to humble confession, and His grace lifts us back up - in forgiveness, and His purpose (like a compass needle – pointing true north) redirects our lives always back toward His mission. Bottom line? – Our love for Jesus is demonstrated through loving and caring for His people.

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” — Matthew 4:19

KEY POINTS:

- 1. Jesus' power makes the impossible possible - He can do what we cannot, even in areas where we consider ourselves experts.**
- 2. Encountering Jesus reveals both His holiness and our sinfulness - True worship comes from recognizing who He is and who we are.**
- 3. Grace transforms fear into joy - Peter moved from "Depart from me" to jumping into the water to reach Jesus.**
- 4. Love for Jesus is shown by loving His people - We show our love for God by caring for those He died for.**

Read Luke 5:1-11 and John 21:1-17 together.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever gone fishing? What's the most memorable fishing story you've ever heard (or experienced)?

2. Why do you think Peter initially protested Jesus' command to cast the nets in broad daylight? What does this tell us about human nature vs. God's nature?

3. When Peter saw the miraculous catch, he fell at Jesus' feet saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Why do you think he said that? Have you ever felt that same way? (Where God's power made you more aware of (convicted) your own sinfulness?)

4. The disciples were hanging out - waiting in Galilee for Jesus to appear. Why do you think Peter decided to go fishing?

5. In both miracles, (the 1st Fish story and the last) the disciples obeyed commands that didn't make any sense from a seasoned fisherman's point-of-view. Has God ever asked you to do something that didn't make sense to you (based on your seasoned experience)? What happened when you obeyed (or didn't)?

6. Jesus asked Peter – 3x “Do You Love Me?” - In caring for God's people – we demonstrate our love for Him. Who in your life (in this group, church, or community) might Jesus be calling you to "feed" or “tend-to” (care for) right now?



Things to Do this Week - Try to Put Into Practice One or Two

1. **Obedience?:** What's one area of your life where God may be calling you to obey, even though it might not make any sense to you. Take one step of obedience (faith) this week – however small.
 2. **Feed His Sheep:** Choose one person in your church, community, neighborhood or at work who needs care. Reach out to them - a phone call, text, meal, visit, or act of kindness.
 3. **On Mission?:** Think about your daily routine/schedule. List one or two ways you could use what you ordinarily do - to "~~catch fish~~ **people**" for Christ or point them to Him.
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*Closing Prayer: (this prayer is only a suggestion - please pray your own as the Holy Spirit leads) –
Note: If there are any needs that have arisen during the study tonight – lift these up - especially.*

Dear Lord – Thank You for this time together and your patience with us as we walk closer to You – as we learn to be more and more obedient to Your voice. Help us to leave our worries, doubts and old ways behind – and to trust You – fully – to set aside our own wisdom and strength and to rely only on Yours! Give us Your supernatural measure of grace toward others to love them as unconditionally as you do – give us Your calm – cheerful and quiet boldness - to always be pointing them toward You – yes with our lives – but also with our words and attitudes – We pray in Jesus name! “