Déjà vu!

I. INTRO:
   A. I saw a lady hitch-hiking on the 15 freeway on-ramp with a sign that simply read, North!
      1. In Jn.21 the disciples aren’t sure where to turn...they just head “north”.
   B. So many Christians think that once they have “repented of their sin, believed on Christ, & have the assurance of their salvation...that’s it!”
      1. Wrong! That’s just the beginning.
      2. Paul said it this way, we were “created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
         a) Oh, so though we were not saved by our good works; we have been saved for good works! Yep!
         b) Our keynote/central theme in this chapter is service!
   3. Also the very important matter of Jesus restoring Peter (next week).
   C. Ever say, “now what?” - maybe you’ve experienced a lull in business; or job pressures have you in knots; you feel trapped in a relationship; or you start day dreaming of the days gone by.
      1. Peter & the boys are probably asking, “now what?” - Is Rome coming after us? Jesus said, “if the world persecutes Me, expect it to persecute you!”
   D. Our scene opens on the Sea of Galilee (a.k.a. Lake of Gennesaret/from OT Kinneret(harp shape), Sea of Tiberias). [682' below sea level; 13miles long x 8m. wide]
      1. Show: a few pic’s of Galilee in the very area were talking about this morning.

II. FISHERMEN ON THE SEA! (1-3)
   A. FAILURE! (1-3)
   B. (1-3) It was absolutely not wrong for them to go back to Galilee. How do I know? Jesus told them to meet them there! - Mt.28:10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”
      1. So Galilee was the rendezvous point!
C. Ok, they were in the right place, but why did they take up their old work again?

1. Maybe thought they’d never see Him again. Maybe thought they’d glorify them best with what they knew. Maybe they were impatient. Maybe they heard the fishing was good? Maybe they were being diligent till He came? Maybe they gave up on Him meeting them, so they went back to their old work.

2. I don’t think it was sinful...just negligent (or careless, irresponsible, thoughtless?)
   a) Before they met Jesus, they had a vocation. Now they had more than that; they had a calling. - But they were turning a deaf ear to that calling.
   b) They were disillusioned, confused, maybe even feeling sorry for themselves.
      (1) Ever been there? - Are you standing on a similar shore right now?
      (2) Maybe you’re casting nets in some quiet cove, away from the mainstream God has called you to?
         (a) If so, maybe you need a visit from Jesus this morning! :)

D. What we do know is that they were unsuccessful...as all work must be, that is done apart from Christ & His command.

1. “Apart from Me you can do nothing!” Jn.15:5
2. How futile our lives can be when Christ is left out!
   a) Are your nets coming up empty? - Are you burning the midnight oil & getting nothing but burned out? Maybe the Lord is calling you from the shore. If so, take a minute to listen. He might lead you to the catch of a lifetime!

E. Adoniram Judson said, “The motto of every missionary, whether preacher, printer, or schoolmaster, ought to be Devoted for life.”

III. FISHERMEN ON THE SHORE! (4-14)

A. COMMISSION & PROMISE OF BLESSING! (4-6a)

B. The Master was watching, & His inquiry was followed by His commission & promise of blessing.

C. FAITHFULNESS! (6b-8)

D. Obedience was honored by immediate results, & the disciples recognized who was the source of their success! [Title: Déjà vu (French, literally ‘already seen’)]

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1 Chuck Swindoll; The Lamb of God; pg.102
E. (6b-8) When Jesus takes charge, failure is turned into success; & the diff was only 7 ½’.

1. You never know how close you are to victory, so admit your failure (have you nay food? NO!) & obey what He tells you to do (so they cast their net on the other side).
   a) He never fails!

F. (4-7) Jesus stands on the shore in the morning haze to comfort the hearts of discouraged workers, telling them where to cast their net & revealing the certainty of His help!

G. (7) Did the miraculous catch of fish remind Peter of his call to service?

1. Read Lk.5:1-11

2. What are the similarities? - Both were on the shore of Galilee; both in the same area of the shoreline; both took place in the early morning; both hone in on Peter’s response; both were because of Jesus’ word they let down there net; both fished all night & got skunk’d.

3. What are the differences? - 2nd time right side (not just out into the deep); 1st time Jesus told them to launch out & let down their nets (2nd time, they decided to go out on their own); 1st time Peter’s response “depart from me” (2nd time Peter swam to him)

4. So both at the beg & end of Peter’s calling, He is called to Follow Jesus!
   a) Follow Me - run along behind Me, that is all. Follow in my steps. Leave your old life behind. Remain completely surrendered.
      (1) It’s being dragged out of your life of security & dragged into a life of insecurity. Yet, really fully secure as you trust in Him!

H. The Lord, so sensitive, stages the entire scene just for Peter.

1. What do you do when you’ve failed a friend? You go to him.

2. He throws himself into the water & swims the fastest 100-yard freestyle that would make Michael Phelps proud,...in order to reach the Savior!

I. A FORECAST OF OUR FUTURE! (9-14)

J. Maybe this provides a beautiful picture of our future after our death?

1. The plunge into the cold dividing water. The welcome on the other shore.
   The discovery that Christ had expected & prepared.
   The feast w/the Lord Himself as He girds Himself to minister.
K. Jesus now invites all 7 to breakfast & personally serves them.
   1. Not much has changed from His earthly ministry to His heavenly one.

L. Maybe this is what Jesus meant in His parable in Lk.12:37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.
   1. Maybe this was a precursor to the marriage supper of the Lamb? Rev.19:9

M. (9) Wet & shivering, Peter reaches the shore. His eyes look down to the warm charcoal fire. Did the fire of coals remind Peter of his denials? (18:18)
   1. Maybe now he’s tentative & uncertain. He doesn’t say anything. Jesus breaks the ice in vs.10,12 (esp.15 where he seems to take Pete aside for complete restoration).

N. Fish Fry - Maybe the Catholics have something here regarding Fish during Lent? :)

O. (11) So why 153?
   1. There have been all kinds of allegorical and symbolic interpretations.
      a) The ancients believed there were 153 kinds of fish, thus representing the gospel to include all persons, & that the net of the kingdom would be strong enough to hold all w/o breaking.
      b) I’ve also heard the letters of 1 of the names of God added up = 153.
   2. But probably John mentioned the number as a matter of historical detail. With a group of men fishing, the common procedure would be for them to count the fish they caught and then divide them equally among the fishermen.

P. (12) Come & dine! (kjv)
   1. It’s an invitation to holy nearness to Jesus.
      a) Invited to the same table; same meat; sit side by side our Savior; maybe even lean our head on his chest.
      b) It’s being brought into His banqueting-house & gives us a vision of true union with Jesus.
   2. It’s also an invitation to enjoy fellowship with the saints.
      a) Christians will differ on a variety of points, but we all have 1 spiritual appetite.
      b) And if we cannot all feel alike, we can all feed alike on The Bread of Life sent down from heaven.
      c) At the table of fellowship with Jesus we are one bread & one cup!
Q. **Saint**, no matter how far you’ve drifted, Jesus is always there on the shore, waiting for you to return. **Waiting** with a comforting fire, warm food, & an affirming arm to put around your shoulder!³

R. Remember, they momentarily ignored their **calling**.
   1. Jesus doesn’t call everyone **away from** their **vocation**!
   2. But to be involved in a **vocation without a calling** is to settle for a life of **empty nets**! [Remember your **calling, in the midst of your vocation!!!**]
   3. Don’t just head **North**... Head for your **calling**!

S. When **Julius Caesar** landed on the shores of **Britain** with his Roman legions, he took a bold and decisive step to ensure the success of his military venture. Ordering his men to march to the edge of the **Cliffs of Dover**, he commanded them to look down at the water below. To their amazement, they saw every ship in which they had crossed the channel engulfed **in flames**. Caesar had deliberately cut off any possibility of retreat. Now that his soldiers were unable to return to the continent, there was nothing left for them to do but to **advance** and **conquer**! And that is exactly what they did.

   1. **Prayer**: Lord, help us to burn our **boats of security** behind us.  
      May we **advance** into our world & **conquer** this world, **not with our sword**, but with our **love**.

³ Ken Gire; Intimate Moments with the Savior; pg.143