

John 21:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

Analysis

Bring of the fish which ye have now caught (ἐνέγκατε ἀπὸ τῶν ὀψαρίων ὧν ἐπιάσατε νῦν/enegkate apo tōn opsariōn hōn epiasate nyn)—Though Jesus has already provided fish and bread, He commands the disciples to bring their catch. This invitation reveals profound truths about divine-human cooperation. Christ's provision is complete and sufficient, yet He graciously incorporates human labor into His work. The fish **which ye have now caught** were actually caught through His command and power (verse 6), yet He calls them 'your' catch.

This pattern pervades Scripture: God works, then invites us to participate and bring the fruit of His work as if it were our own contribution. The disciples couldn't have caught these fish without Christ's word, yet He honors their obedience by treating the catch as their offering. This demolishes both works-righteousness (we caught nothing without His command) and passivity (He still commands us to bring what He's enabled us to catch). Ministry fruitfulness comes from Christ's power, yet He dignifies our participation.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern culture, sharing a meal created covenant fellowship. By inviting the disciples to contribute their catch to the meal He'd prepared, Jesus establishes partnership—not equality, but gracious inclusion of servants in the Master's work. This echoes the incarnation itself: God needs nothing from us yet chooses to accomplish His purposes through human agency.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' command to bring fish to a meal He's already prepared challenge both self-reliance and passivity in ministry?
2. What does Christ calling the divinely-enabled catch 'your fish' teach about how God honors our obedient participation in His work?
3. In what areas of life are you tempted to either take full credit for fruit that came from God's power, or to withhold effort because 'God doesn't need my contribution'?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------|------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------|-----------------|
| λέγει | αὐτοῖς | ὁ | Ἰησοῦς | Ἐνέγκατε | ἀπὸ | τῶν | ὀψαρίων |
| saith | unto them | G3588 | Jesus | Bring | of | G3588 | the fish |
| G3004 | G846 | | G2424 | G5342 | G575 | | G3795 |
| ὧν | ἐπιάσατε | νῦν | | | | | |
| which | caught | now | | | | | |
| G3739 | G4084 | G3568 | | | | | |

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