

John 21:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

Analysis

Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find—The stranger's command from shore seems arbitrary, yet obedience brings miraculous abundance. The Greek word for 'right side' (δεξιός/dexios) carries symbolic weight—the right side represents divine favor and blessing throughout Scripture. **They were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes** (πλῆθος τῶν ἰχθύων/plēthos tōn ichthyōn)—the overwhelming catch echoes Luke 5:4-7 at the ministry's beginning, now at its end.

This moment deliberately mirrors the first call: failed fishing, Jesus' command, miraculous catch, recognition. The disciples had returned to their old occupation after witnessing the crucifixion, perhaps uncertain of their future. Christ meets them in their workplace, demonstrating His sovereignty over creation and His continued provision. The net that doesn't break (verse 11) despite the enormous catch contrasts with the torn nets in Luke 5:6, suggesting the church's unity under resurrection power.

Historical Context

This occurred at the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee) shortly after Jesus' resurrection. The disciples had fished all night without success—a professional failure, as these were experienced fishermen. Dawn fishing was unusual; the best catches came at night. Jesus stood on shore about 100 yards away (two hundred cubits, verse 8). First-

century fishing used large drag nets (σαγήνη/sagēnē) cast from boats and drawn to shore.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's specific command to cast on the right side illustrate that obedience to His word, not human expertise, produces spiritual fruit?
2. What does the parallel between this catch and the first call (Luke 5) teach about Christ restoring failed disciples to fruitful ministry?
3. When has God surprised you with abundance after a period of fruitless labor, and how did that change your perspective on His provision?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	εἶπεν	αὐτὸ	ἔβαλον	εἰς	τὰ	δεξιὰ	μέρη	τοῦ
G3588	And	he said	it	Cast	on	G3588	the right	side	G3588
	G1161	G2036	G846	G906	G1519		G1188	G3313	
πλοίου	τὸ	δίκτυον	καὶ	εὕρήσετε	ἔβαλον	οὖν	καὶ		
of the ship	G3588	the net	and	ye shall find	Cast	therefore	and		
G4143		G1350	G2532	G2147	G906	G3767	G2532		
οὐκ	ἔτι	αὐτὸ	ἐλκύσαι	ἴσχυσαν	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	πλήθους	τῶν	
G3756	now	it	to draw	able	for	G3588	the multitude	G3588	
	G2089	G846	G1670	G2480	G575		G4128		
ἰχθύων									
of fishes									
G2486									

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:41 (Parallel theme): Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 4:4 (Parallel theme): Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

John 2:5 (Parallel theme): His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.