

# John 21:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

## Analysis

**The other disciples came in a little ship** (τῷ πλοιαρίῳ/tō ploiariō)—John uses the diminutive form, emphasizing the small fishing boat contrasted with the enormous catch. While Peter swims impetuously to Jesus, the other disciples fulfill their responsibility: **dragging the net with fishes** (σύροντες τὸ δίκτυον τῶν ἰχθύων/syrontes to diktyon tōn ichthyōn). This presents complementary discipleship: Peter's passionate personal devotion and the others' faithful completion of assigned tasks.

The distance **as it were two hundred cubits** (ώς ἀπὸ πηχῶν διακοσίων/hōs apo pēchōn diakosiōn)—approximately 100 yards or 300 feet—was swimmable yet far enough that dragging a net full of large fish required substantial effort. The disciples don't abandon the catch to follow Peter; they bring the fruit of Christ's command to shore. This illustrates the church's mission: faithful laborers bringing the harvest to Christ, not for their own glory but to present it to Him.

## Historical Context

The 'little ship' was likely a 20-30 foot wooden fishing boat typical of Galilee, propelled by oars or small sail. Dragging a net full of 153 large fish (verse 11) over 100 yards would require significant physical effort, even with multiple men. The shallow shoreline allowed them to drag the net rather than attempting to haul it aboard, which would have swamped the small vessel.

## Related Passages

## **Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith**

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## **Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment**

## **Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds**

## Study Questions

1. How do Peter's swimming to Jesus and the other disciples' dragging the catch illustrate different but equally valid expressions of devotion and service?
2. What does their faithful completion of the task (bringing the full net) teach about perseverance in ministry even when the work is difficult?
3. In your spiritual life, when are you called to 'swim to Jesus' in passionate personal devotion, and when are you called to 'drag the net' in steady, faithful labor?

## Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	ἄλλοι	μαθηταὶ	τῷ	πλοιαρίῳ	ἡλθον	οὐ	γὰρ
G3588	And	the other	disciples	G3588	in a little ship	came	not	(for
G1161		G243	G3101		G4142	G2064	G3756	G1063

ἥσαν	μακρὰν	ἀπὸ	τῆς	γῆς	ἀλλ'	ώς	ἀπὸ	πηχῶν
they were	far	from	G3588	land	but	as it were	from	cubits
G2258	G3112	G575		G1093	G235	G5613	G575	G4083

διακοσίων	σύροντες	τὸ	δίκτυον	τῶν	ἰχθύων
two hundred	dragging	G3588	the net	G3588	with fishes
G1250	G4951		G1350		G2486