

John 21:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

Analysis

They saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread (ἀνθρακιὰν κευμένην καὶ ὄψάριον ἐπικείμενον καὶ ἄρτον/anthrakian keimenēn kai opsarion epikeimenon kai arton)—Jesus has already prepared breakfast before they arrive. The resurrected Christ serves His disciples, demonstrating His continued care for their physical needs. The detail of **fire of coals** (ἀνθρακιά/anthrakia) is significant —this same word appears only twice in the New Testament: here and at Peter's denial (John 18:18). Jesus deliberately recreates the setting where Peter failed, transforming the site of betrayal into a place of fellowship and restoration.

The meal itself—fish and bread—echoes the feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:9-11) where Jesus multiplied loaves and fishes. Christ provides both the miraculous catch they've just hauled in and the meal already prepared. He needs nothing from us yet graciously includes our labor in His provision. The resurrected Lord cooks breakfast for fishermen, showing that glorification doesn't distance Jesus from humble service but perfects it.

Historical Context

Charcoal fires (anthrakia) were portable braziers used for warmth and cooking. The presence of both fish already cooking and the enormous fresh catch demonstrates Christ's provision: He supplies our needs independent of our labor yet invites us to contribute what He's enabled us to catch. First-century Palestinian meals often consisted of bread and fish, the staples of Galilean fishermen.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the charcoal fire connecting this scene to Peter's denial demonstrate Christ's intentional, grace-filled restoration process?
2. What does Jesus' preparation of breakfast before the disciples arrive teach about His care for our daily, physical needs—not just spiritual concerns?
3. How does Christ's invitation to bring your catch to a meal He's already prepared picture the relationship between divine provision and human labor in God's kingdom?

Interlinear Text

ώς	οὖν	ἀπέβησαν	εἰς	τὴν	γῆν	βλέπουσιν
As soon	then	as they were come	to	G3588	land	they saw
G5613	G3767	G576	G1519		G1093	G991
ἀνθρακιὰν	κειμένην	καὶ	όψαριον	ἐπικείμενον	καὶ	ἄρτον
a fire of coals	laid	and	fish	thereon	and	bread
G439	G2749	G2532	G3795	G1945	G2532	G740

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