

JOINING JESUS

Beginning the Year with Anticipation

Each new year brings great anticipation. There is something special about starting with a clean slate. Don't you wonder how God will use you this year? If it is like any other year, there will be days of joy and frustration. Some days will even be mundane. As believers, however, every day is a day to join Jesus! With Jesus, there is never a dull moment. Just ask His disciples!

Read John 21:1-12.

The disciples were in waiting mode, so they retreated to their comfort zone – fishing. Since they were professional fisherman, they knew what they were doing. They fished most of the night.

What was the result of their hard work? How do you think they felt?

Has anything similar happened to you (i.e., a great deal of effort with little results)? How did it make you feel?

Re-read verses 4-6.

What did Jesus ask the disciples? Why do you think He asked them when He already knew the answer?

The disciples didn't recognize Jesus. As such, why would they take His advice to cast their nets once again? What happened as a result?

Sometimes we may have to come to the end of our striving, recognizing that efforts void of divine guidance will leave our nets empty. Jesus stands ready to provide, even when all our attempts “catch nothing.” We may not always know what God is up to. We may not immediately recognize His activity. Nevertheless, we can be assured He is never far away and is always faithful to provide.

Re-read verses 7-12.

When did they recognize Jesus?

What was their response?

What was Jesus doing when they reached the shore?

When the nets were full, John knew immediately anything this wonderful had to come from Jesus. Our humble servant, Jesus, waits on your personal shoreline, ready to fill your net with divine blessing. May you join Him there in sweet communion.

Dear Heavenly Father, I begin this year with excitement and anticipation! Please use me in any way You choose and love those in my workplace. I can't wait to join You knowing Your plans for me are perfect! In Jesus name, amen.