

## DO IT JESUS' WAY

John 21:6

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Not very many people like to be told how to do something they have been doing all their lives and know about all there is to know about what they are doing. Peter and several more of the disciples had been fishermen all their lives and knew how to fish, where to fish, when to fish, they knew all the details about being fishermen. However after a night of not catching anything, they were told by Jesus who was standing on the shore, to fish on the other side of their boat. Who was He to be telling them where to fish, but nevertheless they did what Jesus told them to do and their net was filled with fish. Jesus knew what He was talking about more than the disciples did and therefore a lesson for us all. Do it Jesus' way and all will be well.

### I. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THINGS ARE CLOSER THAN WHAT IS THOUGHT

1. After all night doing what they knew how to do but without success, the lake seemed to have changed.
  - Fish were still there somewhere in the lake.
  - The disciples had used the same methods they had used for years.
  - What they wanted (fish) were not far away, but the disciples didn't know that.
2. Hagar fled from Sarah, taking her child with her into the desert.
  - She became exhausted and had no water left.
  - Her child was about to die from the heat and lack of water.
  - She cried out to God and God opened her eyes and she saw water, just a short distance away.
  - She would have given anything for a drink of water for her child and herself but she could not see the well of water.
3. So often what people long for and think is impossible to have, such as happiness, love, peace, power, etc. is there nearby.
  - Things people desire which without they just cannot live are always nearer than they think.
  - Jesus said, "*...Behold! I stand at the door and knock...*" and Jesus brings happiness, love, peace and strength.
  - It is hard to believe that the one who can redeem, save and change a person is nearer than one thinks.

### II. SOMETIMES THERE HAS TO BE A CHANGE IN THE WAY OF DOING THINGS

1. The disciples had fished all night in the same way they had fished all their lives, doing nothing differently as it had worked fine in times past.
  - Jesus told them to change their method of fishing, fish on the other side of the boat for a change.
    - If they had refused to change their way of doing things, they would not have had the wonderful experience of catching a net full of fish and getting to be with Jesus on shore.
2. Often in sport events, a team changes tactics, methods and the end results in victory which would not have happened if there had not been a change in the way of doing things.
  - As one battles the old sin nature and tries to live by his/her new nature given at the moment of salvation, and victory seems impossible at times, doing something different can bring victory.

3. Changing the way of doing things is not a cowardly thing or being inconsistent.
  - The disciples had fished all night and were tired but they listened to Jesus and in their tiredness did what He told them to do.
  - There are some days when believers are tired, disappointed and about ready to give up but when they try something different, like praying harder, being more thankful, getting out of the same old rut, taking a deep spiritual breath, things change for the better.
4. Churches also need to make changes now and then.
  - If attendance is poor.
  - If few are being saved.
  - If everything is so-so, boring.
  - The "nets" are empty.
  - Perhaps it is time to make changes.

### **III. JESUS CAN HANDLE THINGS BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE**

1. Peter, James, John and others had been fishing in that lake since they were children and knew every inch of the lake, every trick in catching fish.
  - Jesus came and told them what they needed to do to catch fish.
  - They did what He told them to do and found out that Jesus knew more about fishing than they did.
2. Who knows the thoughts of every single person? Who is wiser than anybody else? Who is the most powerful? Who can do anything? Who loves everybody equally? Who can give the best advice? Who has been around longer than anybody else? Who has direct access to God the Heavenly Father? Who can heal all sickness? Who can even raise the dead? Who understands every situation?
  - None other than Jesus Christ.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Jesus knows more about a person's life than that person ever will.
2. Jesus is the One to go to when all seems empty, useless, worthless.
3. It is sad that answers are closer than one can imagine and a person can miss out by doing things his/her way instead of Jesus' way.
4. Don't be afraid to make changes in the way YOU have always done things and don't be afraid to talk to Jesus about anything and everything.
5. LISTEN to what Jesus tells you to do or not do, He knows more about things than anybody else.