

CHANGE CAN BE GOOD

John 21:2-6

Introduction: "I can do it by myself!" declare children, but not only children, for just about everyone has within him/herself the confidence that he/she can take care of things, after all he/she has done it before, many times, so there is nothing to change for it has worked before, so it will work again.

The text is about some of the disciples going fishing one night. They had done this countless times before and they were "professional" fishermen anyhow, so they knew what they were doing and what they were doing had always worked. However this night, nothing they did worked. They caught nothing, however as they were coming in with no fish, Jesus called to them and told the to put their nets on the other side of the boat. Who was Jesus to tell these professional fishermen how to fish? However, they did what He said and their boat was swamped almost to sinking with such a big catch. Sometimes change can be good.

I. OFTEN WHAT WE NEED IS CLOSER THAN WHAT WE THINK

1. The disciples had no thought that that night of fishing would be any different.
 - They had gone to a familiar place.
 - They were fishing the same way they always had.
 - They caught nothing however.
 - What the disciples did happens to us as well. We do the same things over and over.
2. A woman, named Hagar with her small son had been forced to flee into the desert and after so long her strength gave out, she and her son were hot, thirsty and had no where to go. She cried out to God then laid down to die.
 - Unseen or unheard by her there was water nearby. It had been there all the time.
 - Hagar and her son would reach safety after all.
 - Sometimes the answer is there but we just can't see or hear it.
3. At times we put ourselves down, thinking that what we would really like to have or be is beyond us, not for us.
 - The disciples fished in the dark and missed the fish that were on the other side of the boat.
 - It's easy to tell ourselves that we can't do this or that or that nobody cares when all the time it is the opposite that is true. We can do this or that, somebody does care.
 - Things are always closer than we ever think.
4. The disciples missed Jesus very much and while they were fishing that night, Jesus was on the shore building a fire to cook the fish that they didn't know they were going to catch.
 - Life can be a mess, a failure, a disappointment but Jesus can change all that.
 - Jesus is closer than anybody ever realizes.

II. NEVER BE AFRAID TO MAKE CHANGES

1. The disciples were doing what they had always done that night when fishing.
 - They were told to do something new, something different.
 - They did and everything was different - a boatload of fish and fellowship with Jesus.

2. We need to make changes in our spiritual lives.
 - When competing in sport activities, contestants switch, change tactics to catch their opponent off guard.
 - We constantly compete with evil, with Satan and all that he can throw at us in the spiritual realm of our lives.
 - We need to make some changes, do something different, "fish on the other side."

3. It is one thing to be strong, reliable, persistent, habitual, dogged, steady, in some areas of life, but in the spiritual realm, change needs to happen.
 - Habits need to be avoided in our daily Christian activities.
 - Prayer habits need to be changed - think about your prayer "life."
 - The manner of Bible study needs to be changed - frequency, place, time, etc.
 - Have been thankful, but think about all you have to be thankful for and really be thankful.
 - Spend more time in devotion.
 - Spend more time in service
 - Get out of the ruts you are in in your spiritual life.

4. Old ways can be wonderful, great memories, but do the old ways bring spiritual growth?
 - Don't be eager to change but don't be afraid to change.
 - Measure the need to change by what is in the "net."

III. JESUS CAN HANDLE OUR LIVES BETTER THAN WE CAN

1. Just who did Jesus think He was telling professional fishermen to fish on the other side of the boat?
 - What happened when they did what He told them to do?
 - Jesus KNEW where the fish were! Jesus KNEW better than the disciples did.

2. Who can a person turn to that knows more about his/her business than he/she does? Who can a person turn to who knows more about his/her life than he/she does? Who can a person turn to who knows more about how to live a life pleasing to God than he/she does?, etc.
 - JESUS! Jesus is the one who knows more about you and your business and your life than you do.

3. Let us put aside our pride, our "I can do it by myself" attitude and go to Jesus and ask Him about EVERYTHING! and then be willing to make whatever change He tells us to make.
 - Remember the disciples! They were professional fishermen, they had fished all their lives, they knew the waters they were in BUT Jesus knew more.

4. We could be more, do more, IF we would make some changes, the changes Jesus wants us to make.

CONCLUSION:

1. Nobody is perfect - that is except Jesus.
2. If Jesus is perfect, then He certainly knows more about things than we do.
3. If Jesus knows everything, then we need to go to Him about everything and make the changes He says we need to make. CHANGE CAN BE GOOD!