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What Happens When a Powerful Choleric Encounter the Risen Christ? A Close Encounter with Living Love • Part 1

Lesson 7

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE REAL KIND WITH THE RISEN LORD <i>Jesus Meets Us Where We Are but Never Leaves Us Where He Finds Us!</i>				
Who	Where	How	Close Encounter	Living Proof
Mary Magdalene	Garden Tomb	Gardener	Of the COMPASSIONATE Kind	A Living HOPE that Embraces the Risen Lord
Cleopas	Emmaus Road	Traveler	Of the UNDERSTANDING Kind	A Living TRUTH that Understands the Risen Lord
Thomas	Locked Room (2x)	Master	Of the MOTIVATING Kind	A Living FAITH that Is Motivated by the Risen Lord

What Happens When a Powerful Choleric Encounters the Risen Christ?

John 21:1-14

Significant Differences

- WHEN?** From the first day of the week (Sunday) to *no particular day* is mentioned.
- WHERE?** From Jerusalem to *Galilee*; from inside to *outside*.
- WHO?** From all of the disciples to *just seven*; and those seven were *very close* – perhaps *fishing partners* before Jesus called them to follow Him.
- HOW?** From just appearing to performing a *miracle* that is the result of the disciples *obediently following* the command of a stranger on the shore!

Structural Details

(1-3) "Going Fishing!"
(4-6) "Haven't Caught Anything, Have You?"
(7-8) "It is the Lord!"
(9-14) "Come and Have Breakfast!"
(15-19) "Do You Love Me More Than These? (3x)"
(20-23) "Don't Worry About Others, Follow Me! (2x)"
(24-25) Trustworthy Testimony by a Faithful Eyewitness

Fishermen Without Fish
Fruitless Followers Without Their Master
Recognizing the Lord and Responding
Fish Fry around the Fire with Jesus
Jesus Restores Peter to Being on Mission
Jesus Refocuses Peter Being an Obedient Following
John Adds His Final Witness About the Living Lord

1. THE CARNAL (CASUAL?) FOLLOWERS: The Seven Were Busy but BARREN Disciples.

Big question we need to think about is WHY Peter said: "I am going fishing?"

Four Truths for Busy but Barren Disciples

➤ We live in the TENSION between *the now* and *the not yet!* John 21:1-2

➤ We are TEMPTED to return to their old way of life! John 21:3

So were they being carnal or spiritual?

Is "Goin' Fishing" What They Should Be Doing in Light of...

- 1) The **CLIMAX** of (20:28-31) and the confession of Thomas?
- 2) The **COMMISSION** of (20:21-23) and the reception of the Spirit?
- 3) The **CALL** of (1:35-51) and the forsaking of all to follow Christ?
- 4) The **CONCERN** of (6:26-40) and the laboring for eternal food?

- 5) The **CONFESSION** of (6:67-69) and following the Word of Life?
- 6) The **COMPROMISE** of (18:12-27) and the need for restoration?
- 7) The **CONFRONTATION** of (21:15-17) and the question of love?



The Question of Carnality v. Spirituality Is Measured by...

- 1) Our **Old Purpose** in Life: **LOOK OUT FOR SELF!**
"I AM..."
- 2) Our **Old Priority** in Life: **TAKE CARE OF SELF—SATISFY SELF!**
"I am **GOING...**"
- 3) Our **Old Pursuit** in Life: **FISHING FOR FISH...FOR THEMSELVES!**
"I am going **FISHING...**"
- 4) Our **Old Power** in Life: **EFFORT OF THE FLESH—HUMAN WISDOM!**
"I am going fishing...and that night they **CAUGHT NOTHING.**" (21:3)
- 5) Our **Old Personality** in Life: **PETER'S POWERFUL PERSONALITY (Choleric) LEADS THE WAY—HIS WAY!**
"I am going fishing....**WE WILL ALSO** come with you."

- We are **TESTED** by the risen Lord to repent and live a new way of life that is on mission for Him and His people! *John 21:4-6*

The Question of Carnality v. Spirituality Is Measured by...

- 1) Our **New Purpose** in Life: **THROUGH LOVE SERVE OTHERS—NOT SELF!** *Galatians 5:13*
- 2) Our **New Priority** in Life: **LOVE—OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST BEFORE ALL ELSE + OTHERS BEFORE SELF!** *Gal 5:14-15*
- 3) Our **New Pursuit** in Life: **FOLLOW HIM and FISH FOR MEN and FEED THE SHEEP!** *Luke 5:4-11; John 1:35-51; 21:15-19*
- 4) Our **New Power** in Life: **POWER OF THE SPIRIT, NOT THE FLESH!** *Galatians 5:16-21*
- 5) Our **New Personality** in Life: **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, NOT WORKS OF THE FLESH** *Galatians 5:22-26*

- We are **TREATED** by the risen Lord to the benefits of the new way of life! *John 21:7-14*

Old Way of Life v. New Way of Life
Frustration v. Fulfillment Barrenness v. Fruitfulness Distance v. Closeness Guilt v. Forgiveness Knowledge v. Experience Purposelessness v. Purposefulness

Following the Old Way of Life Is **BUSY BUT BARREN.**

Nothing to show for all their effort of working in the darkness all night long!

Following the New Way of Life Is **FRUITFUL AND FULFILLING!**

*More to show than they needed—enough for themselves and others—and **NOTHING IS LOST!***

Have You Gone Fishing Your Way or Are You Living His Way?

*Does Jesus seem missing from your daily routine? Does God seem distant and unapproachable?
Are you busy but barren? Trying harder to make ends meet with nothing to show for it?
Has it been a while since Jesus seemed real and close and personal to you?*

The Living Lord is closer than you think! He is ready to meet you where you are and lead you into a new way of living that is fruitful and fulfilling!

Next Week: The Benefits of Living for the Lord Are Out of This World!