



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: A Great Work to be Done**

**Date: April 12, 2026**

**Scripture Text: John 21:1-25**

### **Notes:**

Last week we celebrated Easter, Resurrection Day. Jesus overcame death and the grave. He is alive and well!! Everything happened just as He said it would, including Peter's denial that he knew Him. On the night of Jesus' arrest, Peter boldly stood before Him telling Him he was willing to die for Him. Jesus told Peter that before morning he would deny ever knowing Jesus ([John 13:37-38](#)). It happened just as He said ([John 18:25-27](#)). In John 20, Jesus appeared to His disciples twice. In John 21, He does so a third time. Peter comes face to face with the One whom he denied. Jesus tells Peter He is not done with him yet. He still has a great work for Peter to do. After Jesus' ascension in the book of Acts, Peter becomes the first leader of the church. Jesus uses him to get His church off the ground. Yet just as Jesus still had a work for Peter, He too has a work for us as well. Let's look at this encounter Peter had on the shores of the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee) and the *great work to be done*...

#### **I. Fish for SINNERS ([John 21:1-11](#))**

Seven of Jesus' disciples were together when Peter decides it's time to go fishing. They all express interest in going. They fish all night with no fish to show for it. The next morning Jesus appears on the shore. He instructs them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. The haul was so great they were not able to bring it into the boat. This incident was reminiscent when several of them were initially called by Jesus to follow Him ([Luke 5:1-11](#)). At that point He told them His plan for them was to become fishers of men. What does it take to be a 'fisher of people'?

- **Courage:** Need to go where the fish are. Does no good to have boats and nets without the courage to go ([Eph. 6:18-20](#)).
  - When was a time you were in a situation to share Jesus with someone but lacked the courage to do so.
- **Committed to command, not the catch:** It's not about how many fish are caught, but about the opportunity to go ([Matt. 28:19](#), [Gal. 6:9](#)).
  - How can *numbers* become a distraction to the work of fishing for others?
- **Creatively cast the net:** Jesus told the disciples to cast their net on the right side of the boat. They could have responded, 'but that's not the way it's done!'. Instead, they followed Jesus' instructions and saw a great catch.
  - How can not being willing to change be a barrier to sharing Jesus with others?
  - What are examples of 'thinking outside the box' that have helped you or someone you know reach others?



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### Notes:

- **Cooperation, not competition:** Ministry isn't a competition on who's church has the most members or who has the most baptisms. We all play on the same team, with the same coach (Christ). Ministry and sharing are a cooperative process ([Col. 3:23-24](#)).
  - Why is 'competing' between churches or classes a temptation?
  - When we have that competing mindset, we get stuck comparing ourselves to one another and not focused on Christ. After all, it is His ministry we serve.
  - Describe ways we can cooperate with other Christians to share the gospel with others.
- **Catch belongs to Christ:** All night long the disciples fished and caught nothing on their own. Yet, with Jesus' help they caught 153 fish. Jesus provided the fish, but He wanted to disciples involvement to haul them in.
  - We may find ourselves wanting to do great things for God, but it is only by His direction and enabling we are able to do so. When was a time you ventured out on your own to do something great for God? How did it turn out?
  - Although it is up to God to direct and enable, He still wants our engagement. When was a time you stepped out, under the direction of the Holy Spirit and were blessed by your involvement?

### II. **Fortify the SAINTS ([John 21:12-17](#))**

Jesus prepares breakfast for the disciples. He met their physical needs before meeting their spiritual needs. Spiritual needs are more important, but meeting physical needs prepared them for the spiritual. Jesus directs His attention to Peter. There is a pivot from fishing for SINNERS to fortifying the SAINTS.

- Who/what do you think Jesus was talking about when He asked Peter, "do you love Me more than these?"?
- To be an effective follower of Jesus, why is it important to love Jesus more than anything else?
- How much do you love Jesus? More than anything else?
- How do you show your love for Jesus?

### III. **Follow the SAVIOR ([John 21:18-25](#))**

God had a plan for Peter. He also had a plan for John. God's plan for John was not Peter's concern. Peter's job was to focus on Christ. Just as with Peter and John, God has a plan for each of His children, those who place their faith and trust in the redemptive work of Jesus. We can't compare our works, or spiritual gifts, or circumstances with others. We, like Peter, need to solely focus on Christ and follow His instructions as laid out in His word.

- How well are you following the Savior?
- How can *following the SAVIOR* help you *fish for SINNERS* and *fortify the SAINTS*?