

“Try it my way and see what happens.”

John 21:1-13

1. We all have a group we are comfortable with.

John 21:1-2, ¹ Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. ² Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

2. We all are an expert at something, until it stops working.

John 21:3, Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.” “We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

3. Jesus invites us to try life his way.

John 21:4-6a, At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. ⁵ He called out, “Fellows, have you caught any fish?” “No,” they replied. ⁶ Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!”

4. His way works!

John 21:6b, ...So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn.

Okay, that’s fishing. So what? Will “His way” work in:

- Marriage. Try to out-serve one another this year, maybe *that* will work?
- Money. Try to tithe and live frugally, and generously, maybe *that* will work?
- Mayhem. Try focusing on the important things, maybe *that* will work?

5. We recognize Jesus while we're obedient.

John 21:7-8, Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. ⁸The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore.

6. God's blessing is already waiting for us.

John 21:9-10, When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread. ¹⁰ "Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus said.

7. The reward for faith? Hanging out with Jesus.

John 21:12-13, "Now come and have some breakfast!" Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, as we move from an old to a new year, help us also move from old habits to your way to doing life together. You have so many blessings awaiting us in 2015, help us give up on our methods and try Yours! In Jesus' name. amen."