

Come and Have Breakfast





When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord.

John 21:9–12

Imagine how the disciples must have felt after such an unfruitful night. First, they’re told by a man on shore to put their nets out on the right side of the boat, and they catch all those fish. Then they realize the man is Jesus, welcoming them to “come and have breakfast.”

Though a net full of cold slippery fish is impressive, I’m not a fisherman, so that part of the story has never done much for me. What really moves me is the invitation to have breakfast.

After a long night on the water not catching anything, the disciples must have been exhausted and feeling like failures. On top of that, they were grieving an intense loss. Their Lord, whom they had followed for three years, the person on whom they had pinned all their hopes for a new kingdom, was no longer with them.

I think of how it might be for me, after suffering a long dark night of the soul, feeling lost and alone, distant from God. I think of how I might feel in the early morning light, arriving on shore and having Jesus greet me with “Come and have breakfast.” The relief, the comfort, the peace, like the embrace of a compassionate friend. Yes, this picture speaks to me. Can you see how the same Jesus who met the disciples onshore two thousand years ago is ready to meet you onshore today?

Christ promises us that He will be with us—at breakfast, lunch, dinner and in between. And after a period of depression, disappointment or loss, it’s so good to recognize once more that He is there and He will provide.