

A NET FULL OF FISHES

John 21:1-25.

LESSON 114 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Thou knowest that I love thee" (John 21:15).

BIBLE TEXT

John 21:1-25.

1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

15 ¶ So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

20 ¶ Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

NOTES

Peter and Andrew

One day when Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, He saw two fishermen casting their net into the sea. These men were brothers and their names were Peter and Andrew. Jesus had other work for these men to do, so He said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Jesus meant that Peter and Andrew should follow Him and teach other people to follow Him, love and obey Him.

At once, the fishermen left their nets and followed Jesus. They listened to His words as He taught them many things. They heard Jesus in the church, on the mountainside, and by the seashore as He taught the people. They saw Him heal the sick ones. They knew He was the Son of God. Some of the people did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, but Peter knew who Jesus was. One day he said to Jesus, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

A Fishing Trip

Some time later we again find Peter by Galilee, the beautiful sea, or lake, sometimes called Tiberias. Suddenly, he said to some men who were with him, "I go a fishing." The others said to him, "We also go with thee." Into the boat and out to sea went Peter and six friends. All night long they threw their great net into the sea, but each time the net came back empty. No doubt tired and hungry, as well as disappointed from the long fishing trip, they came back to the shore.

The Stranger on the Shore

In the early morning, as they neared land, they saw someone standing on the shore. Perhaps it was yet a little dark – they could not tell who was there. But soon a kind voice called to them across the waves: "Children, have ye any meat?" "No," was the reply of the fishermen. Again the voice of the "Stranger" on the shore could be heard, as He said, "Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find."

The tired fishermen could have said, "We have already fished on both sides of the boat; we have done everything we could, but have not caught a single fish." But obediently and hopefully they cast the net on the right side of the ship. To their surprise, the net was at once filled with great big fish! In fact, the net was so full that the men could not draw it up.

One of the men in the boat said, "It is the Lord." At once, Peter got out of the boat and made his way to the shore. It was just a short distance, so he probably swam or waded through the water. It was the same Peter who had walked on the water at one time, going to Jesus. The other disciples came to shore in a little boat, dragging the net with the great catch of fishes.

Breakfast with Jesus

There on the shore was another surprise for the tired and hungry fishermen: a fire, with fish on the coals, and some bread! While the disciples had fished, Jesus had made a nice meal for them and He said, "Come and dine." Jesus knew how hungry they were; they probably needed to dry themselves by the fire after working with the wet net. Jesus took the bread and fish and fed the disciples. How thoughtful He was for the needs of the seven fishermen! And today, too, He is just as kind, and sends us all the things we need and much more.

What a happy morning for the disciples! They had breakfast with Jesus on the seashore! They did not need to ask if He was Jesus, but knew for sure that it was He.

Before Jesus called the fishermen to come to eat, He asked them to bring some of the fish which they had caught. Jesus used some of the fish from the net to feed the hungry men. We do not know where He got the fish which he had already cooked, nor the bread, but we know that He can do all things. He could have had

more fish on the coals, already cooked, but He said, “Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.” We may learn a lesson from this. Jesus supplies what we need, still He expects us to do our part.

They had obeyed Jesus and cast the net on the right side of the ship, and Jesus caused the net to be filled with big fish – one hundred fifty-three! Did the net break as it had once before when they caught many fish? (See Luke 5:3-6.) To their surprise, the net was not broken this time.

Fishers of Men

After they had eaten, Jesus said to Peter, “Lovest thou me more than these?” Peter’s answer was, “Yea. Lord; thou knowest that I love thee”. A second and a third time Jesus asked Peter the same question. Each time Peter answered, “I love thee.” But he was very sad when Jesus asked him the question the third time. Perhaps he remembered that only a short time before, he had three times denied that he knew Jesus. Now he told Jesus three times that he loved Him.

Peter had repented for denying his Lord, and we believe Jesus had forgiven him. Peter surely did love Jesus, and he proved his love by working for Him. We do not read that he did any more fishing for fish, but he became one of the “fishers of men.” He told many, many people about Jesus, and they were saved and loved Jesus. He prayed for the sick and they were healed. One day the people brought the sick out into the street and laid them on beds and couches so that the shadow of Peter passing by might fall upon them, believing that they would be healed. Many others brought their sick to Peter and they were all healed (Acts 5:14-16). Of course, it is not wrong to go fishing, but when Jesus has important work for us to do we must do it first. Sometimes we have to give up our own wishes and pleasures in order to do the work of the Lord.

Proving Our Love for Jesus

Jesus hears everything we say, and when we tell Jesus we love Him, He expects us to show Him that we mean what we say. There are many ways by which we may prove our love for Jesus. Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Shall we make a list of some commandments? Then we can quickly see whether or not we love Jesus.

- “Be ye kind” (Ephesians 4:32).**
- “Love your enemies” (Matthew 5:44).**
- “Obey your parents” (Colossians 3:20).**
- “Love one another” (I Peter 1:22).**
- “Murmur not” (John 6:43).**
- “Rejoice evermore” (I Thessalonians 5:16).**
- “Pray without ceasing” (I Thessalonians 5:17).**
- “Neither be thou envious” (Proverbs 24:19).**
- “Lie not” (Colossians 3:9).**
- “Be ye thankful” (Colossians 3:15).**

Jesus spent much time with His disciples teaching them to become fishers of men. He will teach us, too, if we ask Him.

QUESTIONS

1. Did the disciples catch any fish during the night? John 21:3.
2. What did Jesus tell them to do? John 21:6.
3. How many fish did they catch when they obeyed Jesus’ command? John 21:11.
4. Did the disciples know Jesus? John 21:4, 12.
5. After they had eaten, what question did Jesus ask Peter? John 21:15.

LESSON RESOURCES

TITLE

A NET FULL OF FISHES

Lesson 114

John 21:1-25

Give Me Oil

WATCH & PRAY 60 VERSE 2



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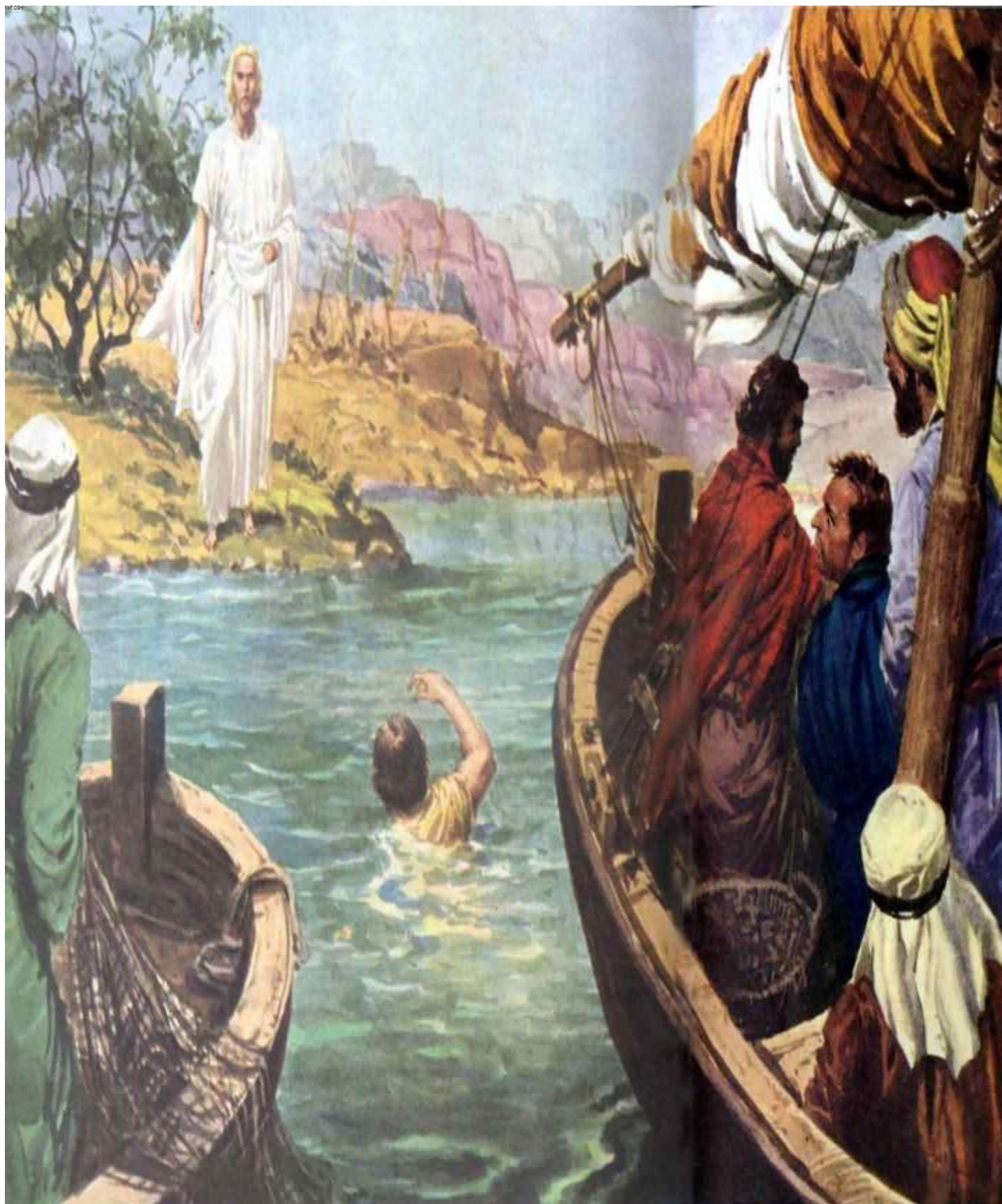
Give Me Oil

Make me a fisher of men, keep me seeking
Make me a fisher of men, I pray,
Make me a fisher of men, keep me seeking
Seeking souls till Jesus comes again

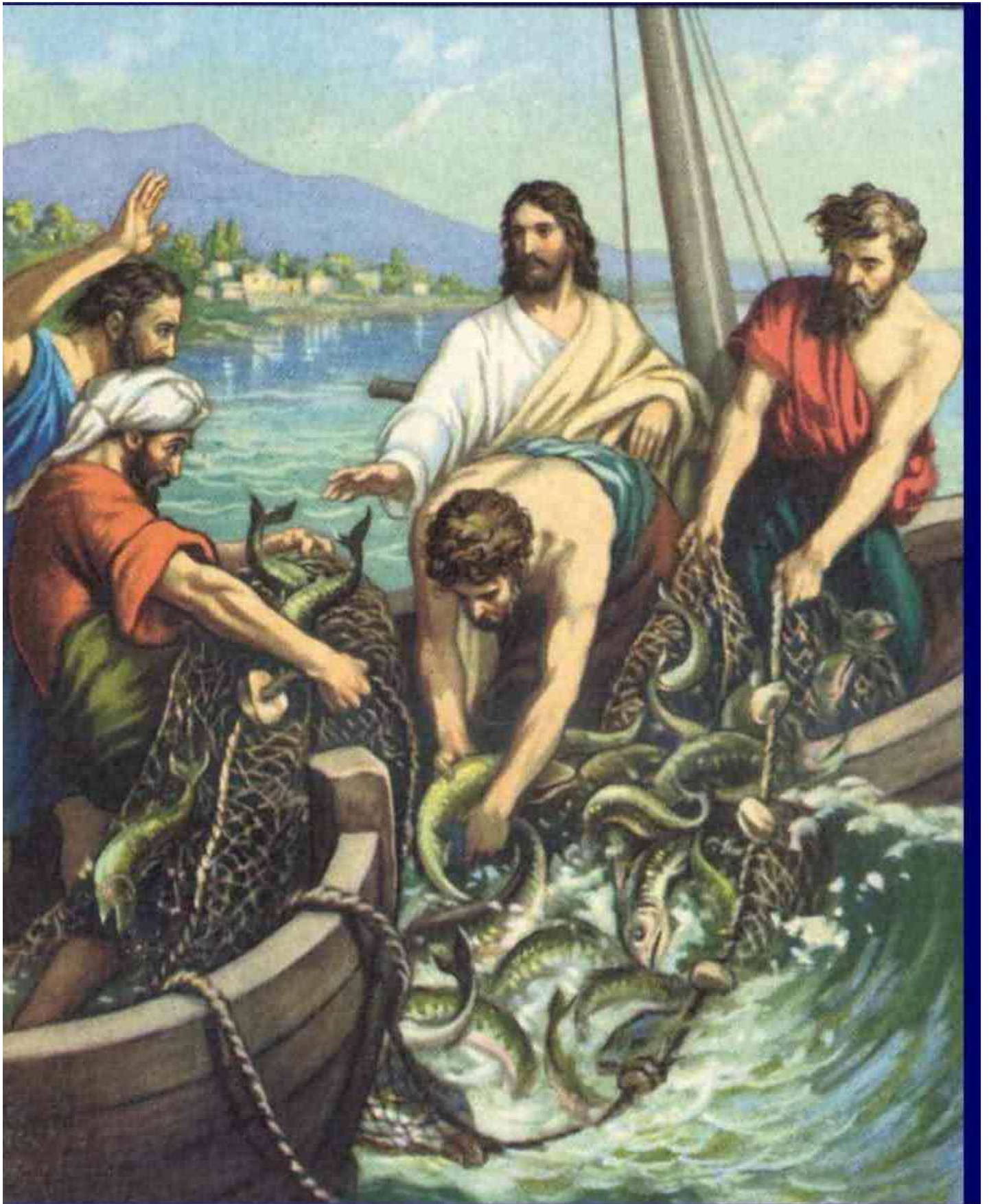
Chorus:

Sing Hosannah, Sing Hosannah,
Sing Hosannah to the King of Kings,
Sing Hosannah, sing Hosannah,
Sing Hosannah to our King.

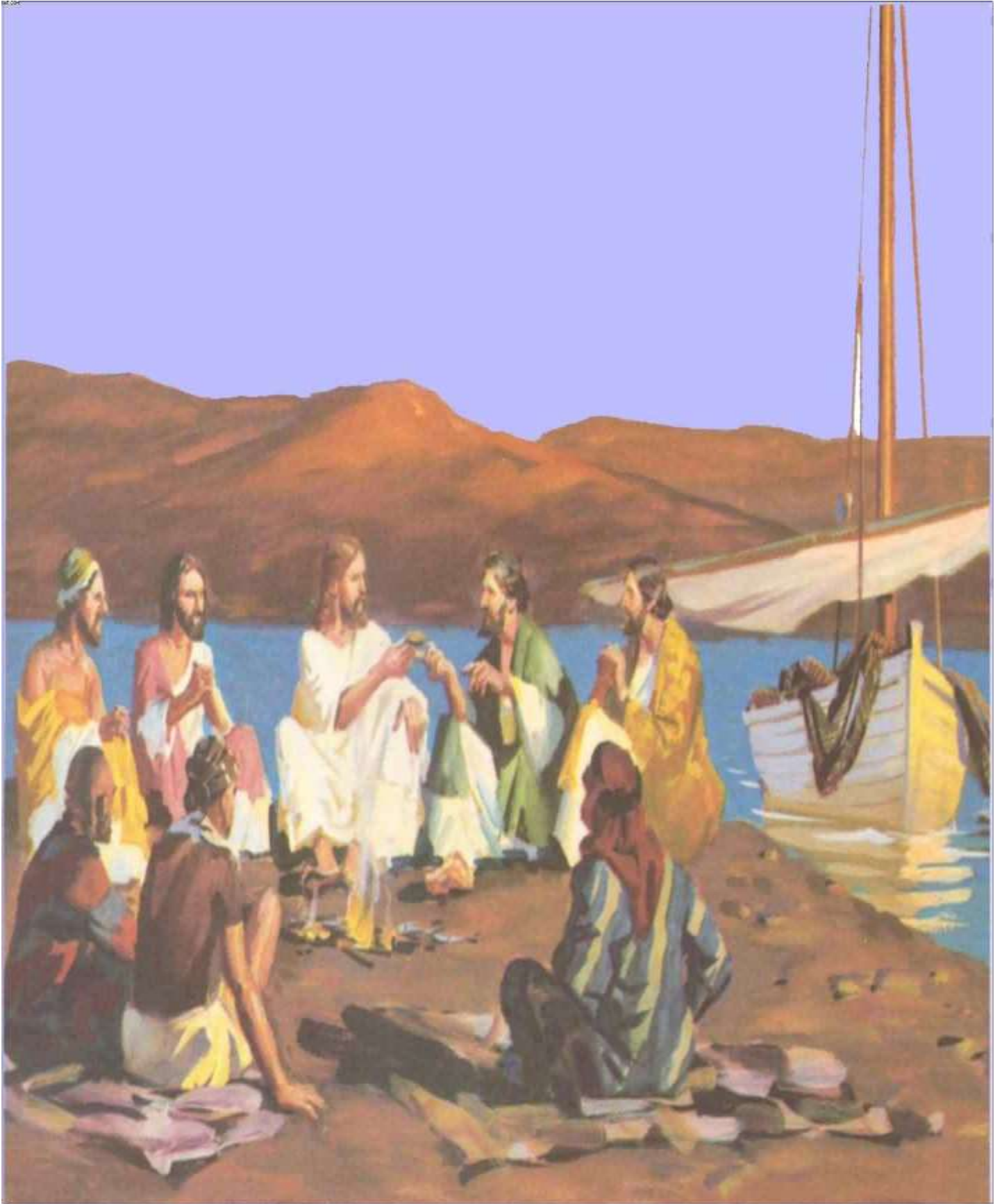
PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3



PICTURE 4

