



# The Trumpet Call

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Messages and Reports

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## Night of Toil, Morning of Joy

**“... at the sea of Tiberias...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. 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.—John 21:1-3**

The phrase grips our hearts, “they caught nothing.” These 7 disciples thought they would take a break; relax and enjoy a night of fishing. But it was a night of toiling and a great disappointment. Perhaps they were wondering how they could carry on without Jesus. They wanted to put it all aside; take a break from the stress and relax their minds. Sometimes we want to take a break from God’s will. We want to return to our old hobbies and occupations. We think we know how to succeed in them. Without Jesus’ leading, we will catch nothing. But God had a plan: weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning. If you are going through a dark night of the soul, Jesus is waiting for you, the morning sun will rise. Peter had denied the Lord, Thomas had doubted and perhaps they were thinking of this as they worked that night. How desperately they must have wanted to receive a personal word from Jesus. As the dawn was breaking, they returned, empty handed and disappointed. Through the lightening sky and the morning mist, they saw a dignified figure standing on the shore.

**“But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, no. 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. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loves, said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ Then Peter took off his garment and plunged into the sea” (vs. 4-7).** Peter needed to get to Jesus. He wanted forgiveness for his denial and assurance and guidance for the future.

All night they caught nothing and now, suddenly, their net is full of 153 large fish. Even though our night of toil may seem fruitless, God is able to give us a morning of success and victory. Jesus told them to bring the fish and share in the meal that he had prepared. Peter and the others drug the fish to shore. These disciples never forgot this wonderful reunion with Jesus. They saw His crucified body, his beautiful robes and the light of his countenance. They heard His instruction and received their commission to be apostles and take the good news around the world. As we go across the sea of life, it is encouraging to know that Jesus will be waiting for us. He is waiting to help us, to encourage us; to give us guidance and strength.