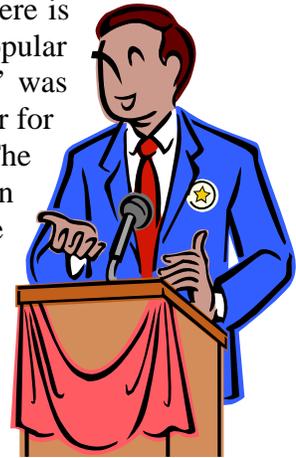


SERMON SUMMARY

Date: March 26, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Dr. Clyde Bailey	Reference: St. John 21: 1-13
Topic: The Morning Experience	

There seems to be some points along the Christian journey where there is the tendency to be ‘caught up’ in the fascination of fads and popular phases. For example, there was a period where the ‘Prayer of Jabez’ was the talk of the town. Recently, it has been the ‘Purpose Driven Life’ or for many, the popular thing was the attending of many conferences. The problem that can arise however is that we try to find fulfillment in these events or trends instead of seeking to find fulfillment from the true source – God himself.



In *verse 2* of the text, we find Peter ‘hanging out’ with six other disciples. This is important to note because as Christians, we need to be careful of the company we keep and the people who we hang around. We also see in *verse 3* where Peter chose to go fishing in the literal sense rather than to be a fisher of men as Jesus had called him to be. The end result of that choice was that Peter caught no fish that night, which suggests that when we pursue our own plans and desires, it bears nothing. Pursuing our own path is not in keeping with God’s will for us.

Verse 4 points out that when the morning came, Jesus was standing on the shore, but the disciples didn’t recognize him. Similarly, when we are not walking with Jesus, it is very difficult to see him. The encouragement though is that even times like those, Jesus still reaches out to us, just as in the text, he chose to go where the disciples were. Jesus then spoke to the disciples and instructed as to what they needed to do in the midst of their nothingness. God has the power to turn bad into very good.

It is also interesting to note that Peter, in hearing that it was Jesus, desired to worship God. At that point, Peter left the blessing of the fish to focus on the one who blesses. All of this was taking place in the early morning and as people of God, we need to be desirous of that morning experience where God’s joy is in us and renews us each day. Being anxious and worrisome over our situations will make us ineffective, but being effective begins with being at a place where we can be of service to God. This requires a relationship and the desire to experience God personally.

Evangelism and serving on the mission field begins getting out of our period of weeping. We should take comfort in the fact that *while weeping may endure for a night*, we need to move forward to the *joy that awaits us in the morning*.