
Perfected in the Word Ministry

“I Go A Fishing . . . Déjà Vu of the Fishermen”

Matthew 4:18-22; John 21:1-3

Sunday Morning Message

~ **Spirit of Truth Cathedral** ~

September 16, 2012



Text:

Matthew 4:18-22

¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

¹⁹ And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**

²⁰ And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

²¹ And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

²² And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

John 21:1-3

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.

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Introduction:

The phrase **déjà vu** is French for “**already seen**.” The French psychic researcher Emile Biorac coined the phrase in a book that expanded upon his undergraduate research. Déjà vu is the sensation of having a memory or a feeling of familiarity about a place or situation, even though the place or situation is unfamiliar. This feeling of reliving something that has already happened is often accompanied by a sensation of eeriness or oddness concerning the place or situation. The effect can be quite disconcerting, as the person experiencing déjà vu attempts to discover just how he or she came by this feeling.

Arthur Funkhouser, a doctor working in Switzerland, has defined three distinct types of déjà vu. The first, **déjà vecu**, is the experience that most people associate as déjà vu. Déjà vecu is the experience that the current events have already been lived through. This intense experience involves most of the senses and is more common in people under the age of 25. One of the hallmarks of déjà vecu is that the experience seems to involve very ordinary events, rather than life-shattering ones.

Another type of déjà vu defined by Doctor Funkhouser is **déjà senti**, or “already felt.” This feeling manifests as a mental illusion that an event has been successfully recalled, when in fact the event has never been in the person’s memory. This type of déjà vu has been associated with some types of epilepsy.

Déjà visite is the rarest type of déjà vu. In déjà visite, a new location seems to be familiar, so much so that the person experiencing this feeling is often able to successfully navigate through the location. Occasionally, this feeling can be traced back to things the person has read or seen and subsequently forgotten. When the person is taken to a new location, something awakens the memory.

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Background:

“*The Calling of the First Disciples*” is found in the parallel Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. While the accounts of Matthew and Mark only provide a brief synopsis of this event, Luke’s version provides a more detailed description ... thoroughly investigated and researched from eyewitnesses and servants of the Word.

Both Matthew and Mark’s Gospels convey the story of Jesus walking by the Sea of Galilee; and upon encountering a pair of brothers (Simon Peter and Andrew, as well as James and John – the sons of Zebedee) who were partners in the fishing industry, Jesus said unto them: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men!” What is not presented in either account is the reason why these four fishermen were so anxious and excited, to the point that they would immediately give up their fishing careers and families to follow Jesus along a road less traveled. [Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20]

“*The Call to Discipleship*” – a unique segment of habit inculcated through our Instructional Worship, is designed to teach and instill within us (Christ’s redeemed) an attitude of restoration toward Christian discipleship. That is, upon hearing the preached Word of God, we (as Christians) should be rejuvenated or reinvigorated to spread the doctrine of Jesus Christ to a spiritually dying world.

In the aftermath of Jesus’ crucifixion and death on Golgotha’s Hill, these same disciples (who were once called from their secular jobs as seasoned fishermen), after feeling a sense of disillusionment willingly obeyed the directions from Simon Peter to return to what they knew to be real ... that is “fishing.” This afternoon, I want to encourage you from the theme: “**I Go A Fishing . . . Déjà Vu of the Fishermen!**”

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I. Luke's Account [Luke 5:1-11,15]

The Gospel of Luke records that, as the people pressed upon Jesus to hear the Word of God, he stood by the Sea of Galilee and saw two ships standing by the lake; but the fishermen had left their ships to wash their empty nets. Jesus entered into the boat that belonged to Simon Peter and asked him to row it out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat to teach the crowd. When Jesus had finished speaking, he told Simon, “**Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.**” [Luke 5:1-4]

Now if my studies of the scriptures are accurate, Jesus was the son of a carpenter; therefore, his profession was also that of a carpenter (a wood-worker) ... and not a fisherman! Jesus was now dispensing his divine insightfulness to teach these soon-to-be-converted fishermen from the basic knowledge of the principle of fishing. It is apparent that the fishermen's nets were empty and that they had not caught any fish, based on the fact that they were simply “cleaning their nets” instead of harvesting a bounty of fish for distribution at the port-side.

This same Simon rebutted or contradicted Jesus by lodging a formal legal argument, plea, or countervailing proof of the fact that they had toiled or worked hard all night long and had not caught a thing! How many of you know that the scriptures say: “to obey is better than sacrifice” (1Samuel 15:22)? So did Simon; which is why he capitulated and responded: “Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net!” [Luke 5:5]

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The scriptures record that because of their obedience to Jesus' command, they caught so many fish that their nets began ripping apart! Then they signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. The men came, and together they filled the two boats so full that they both began to sink. [Luke 5:6,7] This brings us to the reason why these four fishermen were so anxious and excited, to the point that they would immediately give up their fishing careers and families to follow Jesus ... Jesus performed a miracle before their very eyes; which left them in a state of astonishment at the great multitude of fishes. Although they did not have the modern tools of the trade (electronic fish and depth finders), they were experienced and successful tradesmen ... skilled at the art of fishing.

Miracles use natural elements in an unexpected way for a spiritual purpose. The fish were truly in the sea! The miracle came at Jesus' timing and authoritative statement. The immediate result was the astonishment of Peter, James and John. Jesus could accomplish what professional fishermen could not. They therefore recognized the holy nature of Jesus and their own sinfulness. [Luke 5:8-10]

This set of circumstances is what culminates with the words from our Lord: "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men" (Luke 5:11). Or as the Gospel of Matthew reads: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)! And Mark's Gospel records: "Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men" (Mark 1:17)! Jesus was calling them to service. Jesus can use your natural abilities or profession for His purpose of mission service or soul winning (fish gathering). "And great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities" (Luke 5:15).

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II. **Déjà Vu** [John 21:1-14]

But what happens when “the thrill is gone” ... when our exuberance, commitment and purpose in doing the work and will of God has become disillusioned by the state of our lifeless and discontented spirit? Does it seem to you that God has forsaken you ... that he has taken away your joy and reason for ministry? Well, you are not alone ... and you are in good company!

The second part of today’s text speaks to the disillusionment Peter along with six other disciples felt after the death and perceived end of Jesus’ crusade. Peter simply said: “**I Go A Fishing!**” ... to which the others replied: “We also go with thee! They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing!” [John 21:3]

Déjà Vu of the Fishermen! Jesus had to take these same disciples back to the same situation or familiarity where He first called them to discipleship. **Déjà vecu** was now unfolding: the experience that the current events have already been lived through. Jesus once again had to teach the miracle of fishing! What was different this time? Why couldn’t His disciples recall from past experience the events that would soon manifest before their very eyes? Why couldn’t they change the course of events in order to change the expected outcome? Was this just an illusion, or was it real? Was this really Jesus on the shore, or was he just an illusion?

Jesus again told them: “**Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find**” (John 21:6) ... and once again, the miracle of the multitude of fish was realized. What astonishment ... this time to be restored to complete discipleship in the Lord!

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Conclusion:

In conclusion, my brothers and sisters, have you returned to a place (in your spiritual walk) where you have been before? A place where Jesus miraculously delivered you from a state of despair ... or a place of hurt ... or a place of draught in your life? Miracles are the way to catching fish! No matter how great a teacher, or preacher, or pastor, or anointed you are ... only through the drawing power of Jesus Christ can you receive the draught (or catch) of fish ... the miracle that you've been waiting for!

What are you waiting for? The scriptures say that "straightway" (or without delay) the disciples left their nets, and followed Jesus! Your miracle is contingent upon your act of obedience to the Word of God! Obedience is better than sacrifice! Don't sacrifice your miracle by waiting for tomorrow. Why put off for tomorrow what you can do (or receive) today? The miracle has to be first realized in you, before you can win souls (or fishes) for the Kingdom of God! Do you (as believers) need to see Christ's miracles as signs inviting you to restored fellowship and discipleship?

Saints, there is: (1) an urgency for ministry; (2) an immediacy of the task (fishing); and (3) empty nets that need a miraculous multitude of fishes.

"Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." [Psalm 51:11-13]

Altar Call: "God Is Moving By His Spirit" ~ (The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir) ~
"God is moving, by His Spirit ... Moving in all the earth. Signs and Wonders, when God moveth; move oh Lord in me."