

Understanding the New Testament Gospels

The miracle of the Plethora of Fishes

I. Peter's lukewarm service.

1. Peter is called to service (Mk. 1:16-18).
 - 1) He leaves his nets.
 - 2) He literally follows Jesus.
2. Peter is told to forsake all (Mt. 10:34-38).
3. Peter's mother is healed (Mk. 1:29-31; Mt. 8:14-15; Lu. 4:38-39).
4. Jesus is preaching the Kingdom of God (Lu. 4:43).

II. The miracle of the copious fish (Lu. 5:1-11).

1. Peter's boat is still his and operable (v. 4).
2. Jesus tells Pete to let down nets (v. 4).
3. Peter reluctantly lets down a net (v. 5).
4. An overabundance of fish began to break the net and sink the boat (v. 7).
5. Peter realizes he did not follow orders (vv. 8-9).
6. "You shall catch live men" (v. 11).
7. The purpose of this miracle is to force Peter to become a true disciple.

III. After Christ's resurrection Peter has to be forced to revisit his commitment to Christ (Jn. 21:1-17).

1. Jesus had appeared to the disciples twice (Jn. 20:19-23; 24-29).
2. Jesus' performs a miracle that echoes the cornucopia of fishes (vv. 6-11).
3. Jesus forces Peter to deny his love three times.
 - 1) "Do you love me more than your fishing business?"
Answer: "You know that I'm fond of you" (v. 15).
 - 2) "Do you love me?" Answer: "You know that I am fond of you" (v. 16).
 - 3) "Are you fond of me?" Answer: "You experientially know that I am fond of you (v. 17).
 - 4) "Feed my sheep" Peter is given a new ministry. *Feed my sheep* explains what "you will catch live men" meant.