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Close, But Yet So Far Away

John 21:2-6

Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

The disciples caught nothing. Though they had worked all night long, they came up with absolutely nothing. Then Yeshua told them to put their net on the other side of the boat.

Common sense would say “That’s only a difference of 10 to 12 feet. If there’s no fish on this side of the boat, *odds* are, there are no fish on that side of the boat either”.

But we must remember, we don’t serve a God who deals in “odds”. Let’s face facts. Odds are, a sea doesn’t open up to allow people to walk through on dry ground.

Odds are, Fire doesn’t come down from heaven to consume a sacrifice and all the water that’s been poured on it in front of 450 Baal prophets.

Odds are, a little shepherd boy doesn’t defeat a giant with a sling shot.

Odds are, an axe head doesn’t float because someone puts a stick in the water.

Get the picture? We’re not talking about odds? We’re talking about Yahweh. The maker of the universe.

They caught nothing ALL night. This isn’t like catching nothing with a rod & reel. This is catching nothing with a huge net! Talk about discouraging. Then Yeshua tells them to put out on the other side of the boat. You can’t help but wonder what they were thinking.

I remember one time seeing a cartoon picture that showed the side view of a man digging. He was way underground and begun tunneling himself to the side. However, the cartoon showed the man giving up and walking away from where he stopped. The image showed him very exhausted and drained. The problem was that the man could not see that he was just a few feet from reaching a treasure beyond reason. It was actually a very sad image. Yet one that could most likely ring true with so many believers today.

How close have we been to a victory in our lives yet because we didn't see any results, we just gave up?

If you are anything like me, you like to see results. Even if you put just a little bit of effort into something, then you want to see at least a little bit of progress. Whatever you invest, you expect the return to be equal at the same time.

Much like painting. Paint a little, you see a little. Paint a lot, you see a lot.

But life doesn't always work that way. Especially when it comes to the things of the Father. Sometimes we simply need to persevere. Just keep on "keeping on".

Yet all too often, believers give up just before the victory is reached.

Much like the man in the cartoon. He had worked and worked and yet saw nothing. He continued working. Yet still he found nothing. Finally, he gave up. He figured, it was of no value.

How many times have we given up on what the Father has told us to do? What if the disciples didn't put their nets on the other side of the boat? That's something we'll never know because they did.

Now, here's the funny thing. Let's look at the time when some of these disciples were first called by Yeshua. Compare...

Luke 5:3-11

He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

The story is extremely similar but it happened at the beginning of Yeshua's ministry and was the event that made them choose to follow Him. Yet, notice, that it is not regarding anything for Yeshua's ministry. It was for them. Then, resulting in them all following Yeshua.

They were at his side for all of His ministry. Learning, growing, eating, and drinking. Constantly with Yeshua.

Then, after Yeshua died and rose again, *for some reason*, they went back to fishing. But even in this, Yeshua reached out to them. What did they do? They listened and did what he said. The result? Blessing.

And to think that this was just regarding one fishing trip that they most likely shouldn't have even been on.

How much more so should we not give up in following what He tells us to do in our everyday life? Even when you may think that it's of no use. Even when you may feel you've done all you can. Even when it seems that everything you've done up to that point has gained you nothing. Even when you may feel you've hit a dead end. ... Don't give up on what the Father is doing in your life. Stick to it. Stay with it. Run the course.

It's not always easy. In fact, many times in the Scriptures we see where the Father came through at just the last moment. Like that when Abraham had his knife in the air to kill Isaac before he was interrupted by the angel. The door to the ark was closed by Yahweh on the same day the waters began flooding the earth. Yahweh may miss a lot of opportunities to be early, but He's never late.

How many times have we been so close, but yet so far away? Did we stay faithful to the end? Or did we walk away disappointed not realizing just how close we actually could have been?

Just do what He says and put your net on the other side of the boat. In time, His time, the blessing will come.

We hope you have enjoyed this message.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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