

## **Cast Your Net Again**

Gloria Doino

John: 20,21 – A Paraphrase

Huddled in the locked room, they hoped for the best, yet feared the worst. Then suddenly the waiting was over. On the first day of the week, He came. Jesus stood in their midst. They could hardly believe their eyes. Jesus was back in the spotlight, blessing them with boldness, empowering them with the breath of the Spirit, exhorting them to receive and commissioning them to go forward. They must have fought back tears as He gave them back their lives.

“Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord.” (John 20:21)

Wouldn't you know Thomas wasn't there. But Jesus would return within the week. Then would the word spread about the “doubter,” about his gut-wrenching cry “My Lord and my God.” The one who had died was now risen!

Early one morning, when breakfast beckoned, Jesus readied a fire, and stood at the water's edge. Before long he caught sight of the fishermen and called out, “Have you caught anything?”

“Not a thing,” they answered (John 21:5), squinting all the while, so as to make out who was speaking to them. Without missing a beat, Jesus cupped His hands and called out with gusto, “Cast your net again.” Each disciple heard something different...It's not over, failure is temporary, there's more to come, I bring hope, don't give up, I have a better plan for you! Again he called out to them in a mighty voice, “CAST YOUR NET AGAIN!” And amazingly they did. The results were awesome the fish fry spectacular. But best of all, they recognized the Master in their midst.

The rest is history, except that Jesus continues to meet us in our “endings.” He continues to cry out those life-changing words, “Cast your net again.”

Then, as now, Spirit speaks to spirit and we hear...*endings are beginnings*, follow my prompting, fear not, I will make a way, let me lead you, accept my grace.

You mean the world to me!