

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Christ-Directed Service



After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

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.

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.

But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him. (for he was naked) and did cast himself into the sea.

And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

As soon as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

—John 21:1-11.

The symbology of fishing refers to initiation, the process by which the spiritual aspirant is shown how to use the inner powers he has previously unfolded. At the time of Christ Jesus' ministry, the sun by precession was leaving the sign Aries, the ram, and was entering into the sign Pisces, the fish. Thus the old school of initiation was of the Arian Dispensation, while the New

Dispensation had to do with "fishers of men."

In the great school of life—each life a day—we use our several vehicles to gain experience from which comes our soul growth. To the extent that we use our wisdom, or "nets," to garner "fish," or food for the spirit, do we progress upon the spiritual path. In our lack of wisdom we often cast our "nets" and bring back no "fish."

When Christ Jesus told His disciples to cast their nets upon the "right side," He was touching upon a significant inner teaching pertaining to the transmutation of the divine creative principle.

The brain, through which the creative power is used when transmuted, is composed of two halves, but we use principally the left side, which is ruled by the Lucifers of Mars. The right half is only partially active. The heart also is on the left side of the body, but is now beginning to move towards "the right" place. It is gradually changing from an involuntary muscle to a voluntary one with cross stripes. As we continue to live the life of love and service, the heart will come under our control and we will be able to direct the blood to the right side of the brain and thus foster the higher side of the nature. At this stage we will have no difficulty in catching "fish," or giving Christ-directed service, as did the disciples when they had cast on "the right side."

The digits composing the number of fish caught, one hundred and fifty three, when added give a total of nine, the number of humanity. Thus it is indicated that eventually all of humanity will come under the Christ regime and develop in a positive manner through love and service the latent spiritual potentialities inherent in each.