

A message about the Future

Have you ever felt like a by-stander to your own life? Have you ever felt like life happens to you, the future unfolds, and you have little or no control about how things turn out in the end? I want to talk to you today about building the future, about not just being a bystander to your own life but to take hold of 4 powerful keys to shape your future.

Opening text: John 20:30, 21:1-14

After the cross, I am sure that the disciples of Jesus thought a lot about the future.

Peter and some of the other disciples had seen 3 years of divine provision as they walked with Jesus everywhere. They had witnessed amazing miracles of multiplication. However, now Jesus was no longer physically with them.

Chapter 20 ends in **verse 30** speaking about the many signs and wonders Jesus did while on Earth. Was that indeed a “closed chapter” and what awaited the disciples was nothing but uncertainty?

What was their future going to be like? How were they going to generate support to further the Gospel? How were they going to provide for their own personal needs?

In this passage we find the disciples doing what they knew to do: Fishing!

This was not a fishing trip intended for ‘recreational’ purposes. No. These men were, for the most part real fishermen. This is what they were used to do for a living. This was not for ‘the fun of fishing’ – this was for their survival. This was to ensure that they had provisions, money and all they needed to buy, sell and survive.

The only problem was that they worked the whole night and caught nothing. What future could they hope for, with such an uncertain activity?

After that long night, as they approach the edges of the shore, tired and disappointed... they saw Jesus!

- **In the morning came Jesus. The night had been long and fruitless but now Jesus was there standing on the shore, in the morning.**

Psalm. 30:5b says, ... “*weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning*”.

The night had been difficult, but their future was not the night, their future was bright. Their future was Jesus.

- a) Jesus had the instructions they needed,
- b) Jesus knew where the catch was (without the need for a sonar)

- c) Jesus provided fish for their breakfast even before they brought the fish to the shore.
- I felt the Lord tell me to tell you that Jesus is in your future! He is already waiting for you there. There is already a table laid-out and a seat with your name on it!

Your night may have been a long one but in your future, there is already a new morning, there is a light arising, there is the Sun of righteousness arising with healing in His wings (**Mal.4:2**).

Jeremiah 29:11 - *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Jeremiah 31:17 - *“there is hope in your future, says the Lord”*

- You won't have to try to make it in your own strength.

Jesus didn't have to depend on their catch only to provide fish for their breakfast. He already had fish there. Jesus is already standing in your future with your provision.

- In **Hebrews 6:19-20**, Jesus is called '*the forerunner*'.

*“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where **the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus**, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”.*

Forerunner is an advanced messenger.

We can hope for a good future because Jesus is already there! He is the forerunner. He was already waiting for them at the end of that fruitless night with what they needed.

Hebrews 9:11a - *But Christ came as High Priest of the **good things to come...***

Jesus is the Alfa and the Omega – he is the beginning but also stands at the end in the future.

4 unfailing keys to a good future:

1. Be a good follower

We put so much effort and energy into being leaders of our lives and destinies. We are often not good followers. The key to a good future is to allow Jesus to lead, to allow Him to be Lord. Stop driving, trust Jesus with the steering wheel.

John 12:26: *“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.”*

Follow Me – we need to follow Him, not to get ahead of Him. When we follow, it means that He is ahead, He is our forerunner standing already in the places where you are going to go. He is there opening the way ahead of us, clearing the obstacles, orchestrating plans for you, making a way where there is no way etc. When we follow Jesus then he is Lord of our future.

Don't make any decisions without praying and asking for His will to be done.

2. Be good at paying attention

They were so busy looking for fish and trying to make a living that when Jesus turned up, they didn't even recognize Him.

v.4 – *“yes the disciples did not know it was Jesus”*

When the night has been long, look for Him. He wants to manifest Himself. Of the three times Jesus manifested Himself after His resurrection, He chose a time like this, when there was a practical need.

3. Be a good listener

Listen to Jesus. Jesus knew where the fish was. They didn't prosper by listening to one another but by listening to Jesus. We will prosper when we hear His voice.

John 10: 3-4 - *“To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, **he goes before them**; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.”*

9 - *“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”*

16 - *“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”*

27 - *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me”.*

4. Be a good servant

Let nothing stop you from serving Jesus in 2021! Be a good and faithful servant.

Well, what does 'serving' have to do with my future?

Let's look again at **John 12:26** - *“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour*

One thing that I can guarantee about your future is that Jesus prepared things for you to do in 2021 – things that go beyond just your personal needs and your life.

Ephesians 2:10 - *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared **beforehand** that we should walk in them.”*

Let nothing stop you from serving Jesus in 2021. Let your future be painted with the tones of a flourishing soul and a fruitful life!

Conclusion

Jesus is already standing in your future: He is the forerunner, He is the Alfa and the Omega, the beginning and the future, He is the author and the finisher of your faith. He is the One Who knows the end from the beginning. He is the shepherd Who goes before you.

4 keys to a great future:

- **Be a follower**
- **Be attentive,**
- **Be listening**
- **Be diligent in service**