PUT YOUR FAITH IN THE RISEN LORD

1. He is concerned about you
2. He gives the right advice
3. He provides abundant help

Trust me. I know what I’m doing. Famous last words. How often haven’t we heard or said those words and then see disastrous results? People say those same words when making financial investments, choosing a travel route or making an important decision. Experience has shown that people may not always know what they are doing and so the trust is not always there.

Trust is one of the most fundamental things to daily living. Life would be a mess without it. Think of what life would be like if we could not trust our neighbors, our children or our spouse.

But there is one who can always be trusted and that is Jesus, our risen Lord. The disciples learned that by the Sea of Galilee. So follow the disciples and PUT YOUR FAITH IN THE RISEN LORD. Put your trust in Jesus because he is concerned about you, he gives the right advice and he provides abundant help.

You can see Jesus’ concern for his disciples in text. Sometime after Jesus appeared to his disciples in Jerusalem when they were behind locked doors, some went to their homes in Galilee. There they waited for the risen Lord to give them instructions how they were to do his work.

Peter liked being active, so he suggested they go fishing. The others agreed. That is not surprising. After all, that was their occupation before they became fishers of men. Instead of doing nothing, they would go fishing, not for recreation, but for business. Besides, there was nothing wrong with a little fishing while they waited for further directions of their Lord.

Being pro fisherman, they knew from experience that the best time to catch fish on Sea of Galilee was at night. But they fished all night long and did not catch anything.

But the Lord’s eyes were on them all night and his heart was with them. Jesus then showed his concern for his disciples. We are told: Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn’t realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, Friends, haven’t you any fish? No, they answered.

Why did they not recognize him? Was he too far away? Was it still too dark? Was his appearance changed? We do not really know. They probably thought he was another person wanting to buy fish.

You can see Jesus’ concern in his question: Haven’t you any fish? His question assumes they had not, which Jesus already knew. But he asked it so they would have to state that they had nothing so he could direct them what to do.

It is interesting that in 14 verses of text, there is no reference to the soul or spiritual things. It speaks to material things. Man is material as well as spiritual. We live in material homes surrounded by material things.

The Lord knows we need those things. He is concerned about how and when we get what we need. These disciples were not carrying out their calling as fishers of men yet. They had families to care for and support. So they went back to their former job until they received further instructions. Yet even in their work, the risen Lord showed his concern for them.

The risen Lord is concerned about us. He has his eyes on our work, although we may not always be conscious of him. He knows and is concerned about what is going on in our lives. The Bible tells us he is concerned about the sparrows and how one does not fall without
his knowledge. If that is how he is with sparrows, how much more concerned is he about those for whom he died and rose again.

He showed that love and concern when he came to earth to win heaven for us. If he was not concerned about you, do you think he would have gone through all that suffering and pain to win forgiveness for you? No. But he loves you so much that he did whatever it took to win your salvation.

Jesus not only showed his concern for the disciples but he also gave them the right advice. He told them: **Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.** It is remarkable that when this stranger told them to put their nets on the other side of the boat, they did it. There was authority in his direction. The disciples were compelled to do as he commanded. They followed his directions and let their nets down.

And Jesus’ advice was right. The miracle was instantaneous. We are told: **When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.** The disciples did what this stranger told them to do and the result is a miracle: a huge catch of fish, so heavy that they could not pull it up into the boat. Again, this was a demonstration of Jesus’ divine power.

He gives us the right advice too. We find what he tells us to do in the Bible. His words are correct and reliable guide to eternal life. We can trust the information he gives us there because he is the truth. He never tells us to do something that will hurt or harm our soul.

The disciples saw and experienced Jesus' miracle which were God's seals which guaranteed the words of Jesus. They supported the claims Jesus made.

You and I have not had the pleasure of speaking face to face with Jesus as the disciples did, but we can believe the evidence we have. The Bible is God’s reliable Word. He recorded it for our benefit so we could learn from it. Today God blesses those who read it with a studious eye and listen to it with a discerning ear.

So we can place our lives - present and future - into Jesus’ hands, knowing that his advice is always right. That is why we put our trust in the risen Lord. We also trust him because he provides abundant help.

Again, that is seen in text. After the great catch of fish, John recognized that it was Jesus and then told Peter. Peter then left everything - the boat as well as the fish - and jumped overboard and headed straight to Jesus. The others dragged the huge catch of fish to shore. John tells us there were 153 fish. Jesus’ love and concern is also in the fact that, although they caught such a large number of fish, the net did not tear.

On shore, they found fish roasting over a fire and bread to go with it. Everything was ready for a meal. Another miracle that demonstrated Jesus’ concern for his believers’ physical needs. He knew they were cold and hungry and so provided for their needs and had a meal ready for them. So the disciples rested and ate. This miracle clearly revealed Jesus as their risen Lord. That is why they did not even ask about his person or identity.

Jesus distributed the bread and fish much in the same way as he fed the 5,000. In fact, this entire account is full of reminders to the disciples of other incidents in the Lord’s ministry. It all points to Jesus as the victorious, risen Lord. He is the Lord of the Church, who has all power and takes care of his own. The disciples saw and learned again, more graphically than before, that the Lord would take care of them. They were not to worry. He provides abundant help.

The same risen Lord provides abundant help to us. And then he often gives us more than we ask for. His blessings are overflowing. In the Lord’s Prayer we ask for our daily bread. One look at the cupboards at home shows he has given us more than daily bread. We ask for food and clothing and to be content with that, but a quick look around shows he has blessed us tremendously in that.
In text, the disciples acted on faith. They put their faith in the risen Lord. His miracles strengthened their faith in him.

Our whole life is one of faith. We live trusting the Lord for all things. That is why the Bible says **We live by faith, not by sight.** So Christian men and women go into the world to do whatever duty they are called to do, fearing nothing, trusting in the Lord for all things.

But, sad to say, we do not always do that. Oh, we say we trust in Jesus for heaven. We say he did everything for us and our salvation. But where is that same trust when it comes to material things? Too often we worry about what we are going to eat or what we are going to wear or making ends meet. Our trust in God’s help sags.

Yes, too often we worry about money. But think of what it says on back of our money: **In God we trust.** We would agree we trust in God, but too often our trust is not so much in God, but in the paper that phrase is printed on.

But we have our risen Lord’s Word that he will take care of us. He assures us: **So do not worry, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow.**

Like the disciples in text, put your trust in the risen Lord. When told to throw their nets on the right side of boat, they did it. It took faith and trust to do that. That is the same attitude we need to take too. It is the attitude Peter expressed a few years earlier when Jesus told him to throw the net in once more: **Master, we have worked hard all night and have not caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.** That is the same kind of attitude we need when it comes to doing the Lord’s work.

Simply trust in the Lord. That is all it takes. We need to look less to ourselves and more to God for answers and help. Put your faith in the risen Lord. We trust him for the spiritual things. Trust him for the material as well.

There is not anything more fundamental to daily living than trust. Our lives would be a mess if we could not trust anyone. Without trust in the risen Lord, life can and will be miserable. We are thankful that our Savior has built us a foundation of trust. He is reliable. Trusting in material things or even other people does not work. Material things get lost; friends desert us.

But not our risen Lord. He is always there. He offers a solution to fears and worries. He says: **Trust in God; trust also in me.** Yes, trust him. He is concerned about you and always gives the right advice. In love, he gives us abundant help. So put your trust in the risen Lord, not just for the forgiveness of sins and heaven, but for earthly things as well. So when Jesus says: **Trust me,** we can count on it. Amen.

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