

**April 2, 2019**

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** Reading services 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

**Next Week:** Reading services 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

-All the Lord Willing-

**Offerings** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund    Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
                  2<sup>nd</sup> Disaster Relief                            2<sup>nd</sup> School Fund

### **We Remember in Prayer:**

-Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, our widows and widowers, our elderly, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those who are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

## **MEDITATION**

### **A troublesome night**

*And that night they caught nothing. – John 21:3b*

It really was a troublesome night which followed the dark evening. Notice only *the diligence which they employed*. They had scarcely come to the agreement to go fishing or they already go to the shore and into the ship, and – there they sail away upon the Sea of Gennesaret.

*They choose the exact time.* It is said that this Sea of Gennesaret, when the sun shone upon the water, sparkled to blind the eyes. Then fishing was impossible. Therefore men fished there only at night. So did the seven disci-ples, for they were competent fishermen.

They cast out the net, draw it up – nothing. They sail to another place, again cast out the net, draw it up – again nothing.

Why is this; they had always fished in this manner, exactly as they are do-ing now, and then they caught fish and now nothing?

They try it again, again nothing. Peter is so active that he removed his outer garment, but nothing helped. "*That night,*" says the writer of Holy Scripture, "*they caught nothing.*"

Oh, what a troublesome night these disciples went through. Is it any won-der that they finally steer for home and give it up? Nothing will become of it anyway.

And for us they are such a striking image of learning, children of the Lord. Indeed, God's children at times are called in the Bible fishermen who always fish in a spiritual manner. Among other places see this in Ezek. 47. There it is said of the river of the Spirit that there shall be exceeding many and that there shall be a place to spread forth nets and that fishers shall stand upon the shores from Engedi even unto Eneglaim. Now you can understand that all this must be understood spiritually.

Perhaps you shall ask: where do God's people spread their nets?

Well, child, such a place is in God's house, the tabernacle of the congregation, where God's people gladly fish, under the preaching of the Word. They cast out their net in their prayer-chamber; also at times in the reading of good old books and at religious meetings of God's children; yes, where do God's children not spread out their nets? They fish beside all waters, and many a small spiritual fish they have already caught. At one time a broken heart and a contrite spirit, a text, a word which refreshes their soul, a ray of light, a prayer, a sigh.

And that is so pleasant, and so delightful.

But if it shall be well, a time will still come, a dark night wherein they will catch nothing. That is a bitter disappointment. Fishing everywhere – and fishing exactly as we formerly fished – and then to catch nothing!

Does it go thus with you also, child? What a blessing you formerly had under the ministration of the Word; at times it was as if the minister preached exclusively for you, and now, in this night – nothing. And how soul-refreshing it was when in secret you were privileged to pour out your heart before the Lord, in the searching of God's Word and at religious gatherings and with good books – and now – nothing. It is as if there are no longer any fish! There are no soul-refreshings left for you. Is it not so? Yes, do you know what you do catch in this night? A condemned heart; a troubled mind; the dis-pleasure of God; an accusing conscience; perhaps a cursing law; perhaps the sentence of death; an angered Judge and a closed heaven.

And thus, it is truly a troublesome night through which your soul is presently experiencing, a night wherein you go deeper and deeper into misery by all you efforts, burrowing and working.

Do you not know of such a night, child of God? Oh, how full of trouble is such a night, and yet it is necessary if your soul is ever to be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. "A short work will I make upon the earth," says the Lord. God will let you work yourself to death and

will bring you into death with everything. But He does not do this to leave you in the dark, in trouble, in this death, oh no! However dark God's way might be to you at present, keep courage, child, for the Sun of Righteousness shall dawn for you.

~REV. G. VAN REENEN

## *Notes*

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

*John 20:31*

### Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President      Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer

Mr. Dave Hoogendoorn, Clerk

### Contacts

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer [craigtimmer@ymail.com](mailto:craigtimmer@ymail.com) or (231) 942-1389

Sermon recordings : Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

Church Times: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.