

**April 22<sup>th</sup> 2007: Jesus : The practical Provider: John 21:1-14**

**If you have your Bibles**.....and can turn to our reading→John 21:1-14 you will notice that both the first verse we read.....and the final verse(14) **contain**---(in the NIV).....the word **APPEARED** ...with regard to Jesus Verse 1 begins: **Afterwards Jesus appeared again to His disciples** Verse 14 ends.....: **This was now the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.**

**What makes this fact important**.....in our study of this passage Is that the Greek word used in both cases...is not the simple→appeared But the more meaningful word → MANIFESTED And indeed.....What verse one literally says is that **Jesus manifested Himself again to His disciples**

And v14 says: **This was now the third time Jesus was manifested to the disciples**

The meaning of this word Manifested.....Means to make visible....something or someone.....that is present but unseen

**It reminds me of a story from the OT.....From 2 Kings chapter 6 The prophet Elisha with his servant were once in a city...surrounded.... The servant was panic stricken...Then Elisha prayed.....Open his eyes...**

- **Here we see** Jesus making Himself visible to His followers Confirming the promise....made to them after His resurrection.... as recorded in Matt 28:20 →**And surely I am with you..... Since then.....Jesus is not** often seen .... in a physical way....

**Indeed it is the exception for Him**

to manifest Himself in human form.....as He does here

**But though** we do not see Him....He is constantly with us

**That is.....I believe**.....One of the most glorious blessings that the Christian **The wonderful knowledge**.....that we are never alone

Wherever we are.....whatever we face.....Christ Jesus is with us

- **However this ...and the** other resurrection appearances..... Were extremely important for those first disciples

**They had a** great need to see Jesus in the flesh.....

For their testimony confirms for us the reality of the Resurrection

**but they also understood**.....as their use of this word.....**Manifested** shows

**That even though** Jesus would not continue to manifest Himself.....**visible**

He would always be with them .....Even after His ascension

**Always teaching**.....by His Holy Spirit

**Always providing** for their needs.....through His resurrection power

Doing for all believers.....what He did for them .....beside the lake

**I reckon that what we have here....in John chapter 21**

Is a demonstration.....of what Jesus promises to do...for all who commit.....

- **Consider** how He provided for His disciples

**Mainly men** who gained their income from fishing.....They had gone out....

But unfortunately they had caught nothing

**Jesus however**.....had a job for them to do.....that would leave little time for fishing

**They would be the leaders**....the preachers....the teachers.....the evangelists

**So there on the beach**.....He miraculously provides so many large fish.....that....they cannot draw the net

**A source of funds** that was sufficient for their needs

**And also** proclaimed His willingness.....to provide for their future

**The centuries have passed**.....but Jesus has not changed

**There** are today thousands of people.....called into full time ministry by...

Who can testify to His supply of all their needs

**Called by Him** to forsake regular income sources.....and to rely on Him

The Lord has looked after all their needs....Big and small

*(I have a book of stories...of how the Lord provided for OMF Missionaries*

*One tells of a family in Canada.....*

*They had felt God calling them to become workers with OMF.....Entailed selling*

*However high interest rates.....mean't that everyone else.....doing the same*

*Every 3<sup>d</sup> house seemed to have*

*After two months.....no buyers.....SO they had a family prayer time.....)*

**If you feel** that the Lord is calling you into some full time ministry....hesitating...

**You can trust Him**.....He showed on the beach....Look after His own

• **But as well as doing** the big miracle.....Jesus did something else.....

**Just** as wonderful

**He prepared** a charcoal fire.....and cooked them a breakfast

***Just imagine how you would have felt***

***After fishing all night.....No doubt cold and wet***

***Then experiencing an amazing miracle.....***

***Then seeing that it is Jesus***

**And then noticing a** fire burning.....and smelling the mouth watering smells

Of freshly cooked bread.....and roasted fish

**I doubt if any breakfast ever tasted more wonderful**

**Or any other act said so clearly.....I care**

• **As I thought about** Jesus preparing that breakfast.....I thought again

**About** all the things the Lord does for me

How often he provides that seemingly small thing....completely brightens my day

***(Example : when working with my hands...)***

**Sometimes I** hear people say...that they don't pray for little things in their lives

Because the Lord is too big.....to be concerned about our minor concerns

**Yet the Lord prepared breakfast for ...**

**Here...in a truly wonderful way**.....we find the Lord...who is our Shepherd

**Supplying** their needs.... before they were even aware of them.

***(Last Thursday...this was the little reading → Bread of life***

***The Peace of Mind Game: .....***)

• **Of all the Resurrection appearances.....**

This surely...is the most down to earth -----The most practical

**We know that one day believers will be with the Lord forever**

That this earth will pass.....and glory will be ours

**But until then**.....the Lord calls us to live here for Him

**To serve Him**.....minister for Him.....

**And He remains with us**

To provide for us.....enable us.....watch over us

**The good Shepherd.....caring constantly for us.....His sheep.**

