

"Children, have ye any meat?" (verse 5). Is not this like the Lord asking us, What did you get by wandering from me? did you "*prosper* in the way?" No, Lord, we reply, and that word puts us back into the enjoyment of His favor. ANY meat? No. A vestige of blessing or real joy at all? Sum it all up and say, No, Lord. The disciples say only "No," and He says all the rest. Own up that you did not find your own way a good way, and He will soon find you a better one. This fishing of theirs was no easy work—they *toiled* at it. How different to Christ's yoke, of which He says "it is *easy*, and my burden *light*." They did not want to cast the net again—they had only *one*—but Jesus tells them the very spot to cast it. Now it is filled with a multitude of fishes, and yet it does not break. Not a thread is ever broken in His service, when we put out *every* thread for Him—invest our ALL in devotedness to Him. Happy thing for us when we fish along with Christ!

Let us now leave the rest of the disciples, and look at one of them specially—Simon Peter. The 11th, 15th, 16th and 17th verses, and nearly all the remainder of the chapter, are occupied with him. Let us look back a little, and see what brought him where he is. He had "gone a fishing," not only in a physical way, but also in a *moral* one. The Lord had said to him long before, I have something to tell you, Satan wants to get you into his sieve. But Peter was not at all afraid "Happy is the man that *feareth* ALWAYS!" Peter thinks he can fight "the world, the flesh and the devil" all single-handed. The Lord's heart yearned over him, and said Oh, that Peter knew his own heart! Peter does not know that if he will not learn "leaning on the bosom of Jesus," he must be riddled in Satan's sieve until all is gone except the little that Christ has put there—the *pure wheat*. He is shaken about until he hardly knows that he is Christ's at all, but not "the least grain of the pure wheat shall fall to the ground." Do not fear the result, Christian, if you do get into Satan's sieve, though fear surely as to getting into it. If you go in, you will come out, and you will come out with all that was ever in you of pure *wheat*. The chaff only will be winnowed out. When the needed discipline is accomplished, Satan cannot shake another stroke. The Lord will take you out, and restore you by His grace.

"Soon as sorrow's work is done,
'Tis He who sends relief."