

## WHO IS THAT STRANGER?

John 21:1-14

DO YOU REMEMBER, THE LONE RANGER? HIS FAMOUS CRY, “HI YO SILVER, AWAY”  
THE QUESTION AT THE END OF EACH STORY WAS, “WHO IS THAT STRANGER?”

JESUS CAME INTO HISTORY AS A STRANGER – UN-ANNOUNCED TO MOST OF THE WORLD - SOME ASKED, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

BORN IN AN OBSCURE SMALL TOWN - RAISED IN AN UNPOPULAR UN-NOTICED TOWN OF nAZARETH - JUST ANOTHER BABY - ANOTHER BOY & YOUNG MAN . MANY HEARD HIM PREACH AND TEACH AS A STRANGER.

For you & me - there was once a time when we saw & heard of Jesus for the first time. We THEN asked ourselves, “Who is this Jesus?”

LET’S LOOK THIS MORNING OF THIS STRANGER.

### 1- THE CALL OF THE STRANGER;

JESUS GREW UP AS A BOY – YOUNG MAN. ABOUT AGE 30 HE BEGAN TEACHING – PREACHING & WORKING MIRACLES.

he ALSO BEGAN CALLING MEN, “COME & FOLLOW ME,” AND THEY FOLLOWED HIM.

TODAY, JESUS STILL CALLS ALL PEOPLE TO FOLLOW HIM.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN JESUS CALLED? DID YOU FOLLOW? ARE YOU STILL FOLLOWING?

### 2- THE HOPE OF THE STRANGER;

AS MANY FOLLOWED, THEY LEARNED TO KNOW HIM & TRUST HIM. THEY CONTINUED TO HEAR HIM & SEE HIS AMAZING WORKS – THE LAME WALKING – THE BLIND SEEING – THE DEAF TO HEAR AND THE MUTE TO SPEAK – EVEN THE DEAD COME TO LIFE.

\* \* \* HE WAS EVERYTHING THEY HOPED FOR AND LONGED FOR. BUT ONE OCCASION IN PARTICULAR DEMANDED TOUGH FAITH & many of his FOLLOWERS turned back AND no longer followed him.

JESUS ASKED the Twelve, “You don’t want to leave also, do you?”. Simon Peter answered him,

“Lord, who can we go to? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

DO YOU HAVE THAT HOPE IN JESUS CHRIST TODAY?

THEN ONE DAY, THEY TOOK THIS MAN WHO ONCE GAVE THEM SUCH HOPE AND - - - -

T H E Y C R U C I F I E D H I M.

3- THE DEATH OF THE STRANGER;

FOR 3 YEARS PETER & FRIENDS FOUND HOPE IN THE ONE TIME STRANGER. THEY HAD WALKED & TALKED WITH HIM – SAW MIRACLES AND FOUND HOPE AS NEVER BEFORE - NOW HE WAS DEAD – HOPE WAS GONE, DREAMS BROKEN.

TodaY, IS JESUS TRULY LIVING AND DOING MIRACLES IN YOUR LIFE, OR IS HE DEAD?

THEY LOST ALL HOPE – SOME OF THEM WALKED ALONG A LONG DARK ROAD –

HEADS DOWN – JESUS CAME NEAR – SPOKE WITH THEM – THEY DIDN’T RECOGNIZE HIM. TO THEM, HE WAS JUST A STRANGER.

HAS SOME EVENT OR INCIDENT DAMAGED YOUR FAITH IN HIM AND SWEPT AWAY YOUR CLOSE WALK WITH HIM?

SOMETIMES, THE LIVING CHRIST IS JUST A STRANGER TO ONES WHO ONCE BELIEVED IN HIM.

IS JESUS TRULY THE LIVING VIBRANT MIRACLE WORKING SON OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE TODAY

ONE EVENING – SIMON PETER SAID, “I’M GOING BACK TO MY OLD LIFE (FISHING).

THE OTHERS SAID, “US TOO.” WENT TO THEIR BOATS – GATHERED THEIR OLD NETS – PUSHED OUT INTO THE NIGHT – CAST THEIR NETS – PULLED THEM IN – CAST THEM OUT – PULLED THEM – ALL NIGHT – THE HOURS SLOWLY WASTED AWAY. NOT ONE FISH.

THEY GREW TIRED – WEARY. THE DARKNESS BEGAN FADING – THE LIGHT DAWNING WITH THE EMERGING SUN.

4- THE RE-APPEARANCE OF THE STRANGER:

IN THEIR TIREDNESS THEY SAW A MAN ON THE SHORE. THEY THOUGHT, “WHO IS THAT STRANGER?”

HE YELLED OUT, "HAVE YOU CAUGHT ANY FISH? (ANY OTHER TIME THEY COULD BRAG, YEA, LOOK HERE) BUT THIS TIME, "NO- NOT ONE." THEN CAST YOUR NETS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF YOUR BOAT, AND YOU WILL FIND SOME" THEY DID – AND – THEY DID. - - - THE NET WAS FULL 153 FISH JOHN SAID TO PETER, THAT'S NO STRANGER, "IT'S THE LORD" THEY CAME IN TO SHORE – SAW A FIRE W/ FISH AND BREAD HE HAD PREPARED. HE SAID, "BRING THE FISH YOU CAUGHT TOO. LET'S HAVE BREAKFAST." JESUS GOT UP – HANDED SOME FISH AND BREAD TO THEM.

HOW RELAXING & HOW TRANQUIL. A WARM SPRING – EARLY MORNING - SHARING BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH.  
BUT THERE WAS AN UNEASINESS – THEY HAD EACH FAILED THE LORD – WENT BACK TO THEIR OLD LIFE – NOT MUCH HAD BEEN SAID YET.

W H A T W O U L D J E S U S S A Y?

THEY FINISHED EATING. JESUS SPOKE, "SIMON, SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME?" 3 TIMES HE ASKED THIS QUESTION, "DO YOU LOVE ME?"

PETER, WHO HAD ONCE KNOWN JESUS IN A PERSONAL TRUSTING WAY, BUT NOW HAD FALLEN BACK – BACK TO WHERE JESUS ALMOST BECAME A STRANGER AGAIN.

JESUS KNEW WHAT PETER – AND ALL OF THEM NEEDED. A REVIVAL OF TRUST & LOVE.

SOMETIMES WE NEED OUR LOVE & FAITH REVIVED.  
SOMETIMES, WE NEED TO HEAR JESUS SAY, "DO YOU LOVE & TRUST ME AS AT FIRST? OR AM I BECOMING A STRANGER TO YOU?  
TODAY, ARE YOU WALKING CLOSE TO HIM OR FOLLOWING FAR OFF AS PETER DID. HAVE YOU GONE BACK TO YOUR OLD LIFE YOU ONCE GAVE UP FOR HIM?  
DO YOU NEED REVIVAL?

JESUS LOVES YOU AND IS READY TO FORGIVE AND RESTORE THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION.