

## **THE AUTHORS SHOW – Religion**

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But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, “Children, have ye any meat?” They answered him, “No.” And he said unto them, “Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.” They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Therefore, that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, it is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him (for he was naked) and did cast himself into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little ship; for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits, dragging the net with fishes. As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. Jesus saith unto them, “Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.” Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land full of great fishes, a hundred and fifty and three: and for all, there were so many, yet was not the net broken. John 21:4-11

Now let's look first at verses 4-6. Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus (verse 4). Now, this was after Jesus had been crucified, even though Jesus had revealed himself to the disciples prior to this.

In verse 5, Jesus said to them, “Children, have ye any meat?” They answered him, “No.”

In verse 6 Jesus gives the disciples direction and it's up to them whether they choose to be obedient or not. Keep in mind, though, they still don't know that it's Jesus. Verse 6 says, “And he said unto them, cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find.” They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Now here were the disciples, who had fished all night and caught nothing. When the morning had come, a man approached them on the shore who unbeknownst to them was Jesus. He gave them direction to cast the net, not just outside the ship anywhere, but on the right side of the ship only. Now because of their obedience, the miracle of fishes took place.

How many times have you heard that little voice inside of you direct you to do something, and you obeyed, and a miracle happened?

All of us have at least two local supermarkets that we shop at, one more than the other, for whatever reason. You need to purchase one item so that you can make dinner, and instead of going to your favorite market, that little voice inside of you tells you to go to the other market, and so you do. Once inside, you come across an unadvertised special on something that you and your family love. You grab a shopping cart and load up. As you are loading the items in your cart, you say to yourself that is a miracle, oh, what a lucky break. Has this ever happened to you? I'm sure it has. Here let me give you one of my own personal accounts. I live in Orlando, Florida, and am very fortunate to have several supermarkets near me in close proximity: a Publix, Winn-Dixie, and a Save Rite. I prefer the Winn-Dixie and have a savings card with them. They are also the closest to my home. Don't get me wrong, though. I'm not one of those Floridians who doesn't like to drive too far. I'm originally from New York and have no problem driving anywhere. I'm the type of person who can't lease a vehicle. My husband makes fun of me all the time saying, "Unless a supermarket, mall, veterinarian, etc., aren't at least 30 miles away from the house one way, you're not happy. You enjoy watching the miles roll over on a vehicle." But that's a story for another time. Back to the point: I was going out just to buy some onions and was directed by that little voice inside of me (which I have now learned is God) to go to Save Rite instead of Winn-Dixie. I was obedient, and as soon as I came through the doors, I saw an unadvertised special for Bumble Bee Chunk Lite Tuna. They were three cans for one dollar. I was so excited, I couldn't contain myself as that brand, whether regular or lite, is the only kind of tuna I eat. I grabbed a shopping cart and started to load up. At this time, we had been living in Florida for about seven months and I had been searching for tuna at a reasonable price all that time. I thought that living in Florida, with the great weather and people fishing all the time, fish would be cheap. No such luck! As I loaded the bags in my car, I thanked God for making that miracle of direction for me.

Now if you will take some time to sit quietly and think about it, I'm sure you will be able to see that every day God proves miracles of direction for all of us if we would just listen and obey. As

a young child, I remember when people would say God gave us all two ears and one mouth and if we would utilize our ears more, so we can hear God when he speaks to us we would be richly blessed.

Pastor Paula White enlightened me on a passage of scripture that I have claimed as one of my favorites, Psalms 68:19. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our Salvation. Daily, the Lord loads us up with benefits and some of those benefits are miracles of direction.

Miracles happen for those who believe and those who want to have hope that miracles do happen to prove that God exists. Once we have no hope we might as well be dead! Hope allows us to dream about what could happen or what could be true. Having anything else can be destructive to us. Anger weakens the liver, Grief weakens the lungs, Worry weakens the stomach, Stress weakens the heart and brain, and finally Fear fails the kidneys.

I write because I am passionate about bringing uplifting and encouraging words to people. Life is a gift, and everyone needs to live life with appetite and engage.