

Sermon notes – April 18 – Breakfast on the Beach

John 21:1-14 'Jesus is Risen'

Jesus and disciples were together for few years, going together, walking together, eating together, during miracles, during festivals.

Jerusalem is silent now, all background noise is now over, no more Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. no more headlines, Passover is over now, Jerusalem must be settling from one of the worst crucifixions.

Now we are end part of the Gospel of John, the Sea of Tiberias is another name for the Sea of Galilee. John 6:1 The gospel writer lists the 7 disciples who were present, Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

Mark 14:28 & 16:7, Jesus himself had told them to return to Galilee, and he would see them there. Let's go back to work, now disciples are waiting in Galilee as per Jesus' instructions however Simon came up with an idea, I am going out to fish, Simon told them and they said, we'll go with you,' so they went out and got into the boat,

They knew what they were doing when it came to fish. But on this occasion, they failed, they caught nothing.' Disciples had a similar experience, in Luke 5:10 and during that time Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."

When morning came, their nets were as empty as when they'd begun. We can imagine their feelings: tired and frustrated and must be hungry. So many times, we all experience same, a loss of time, money and energy. On number of occasions, we work hard over something and not achieve anything.

Now suddenly, Jesus is appearing on shore and asked the question: 'Children, haven't you any fish?' They didn't have a single fish to offer to Jesus and even they didn't recognise that He is Jesus, the risen Christ.

Jesus didn't shout or scold and didn't criticise the disciples for going back to their old occupation.

Now, looking at their unsuccessful attempt, Jesus tells them to put their nets down on the other side of the boat and they will catch fish there. When they follow Jesus' instructions, their nets fill up. this incident may remind you of an earlier encounter, recorded in Luke 5, where Jesus is asking them to "Push the boat out further to the deep water, and you and your partners let down your nets for a catch." And they do – and they catch so many fish their nets are about to break. It is the calling of the disciples to follow Jesus.

And it is at this point that John recognises Jesus and shouts, "It is the Lord!"

Now, when they reach the beach, they find Jesus has already been busying himself cooking a breakfast for them, disciples forgot their failure and tiredness - all because of the risen Jesus in their midst.

So here is Jesus meeting the disciples, after all their failure during Passion Week, after they have run away, after they have given up hope and gone back to their old lives. Here is Jesus meeting with them in the same way he met with them on Day One, doing the same thing that introduced them to him at the beginning. The last time that Jesus and Peter had been together near a charcoal fire was in the courtyard of the High Priest Caiaphas on Maunday Thursday – the night that Jesus was being tried. And it's as if he is saying, "Do you remember how it was before all this mess happened? It can be like that again. Let's start afresh. Let's go back to the beginning. Let's start again together. I forgive you and am still calling you." And then Jesus says to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught'. Another beautiful act of compassion and loving-kindness.

So they sit down to eat together and in verse 13 we read, 'Jesus gave them the bread'. How important that would have been for the disciples of the last time that Jesus gave them bread at the Last Supper, where the denials and the betrayals and the cowardice had all begun. But here is Jesus sitting with them again, sharing bread with them, still offering hospitality, still serving them, still loving them.

May our Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ help us to understand His encounter with disciples.

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You may also like to read: 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 1 Peter 1:3, Colossians 3:1 - 4