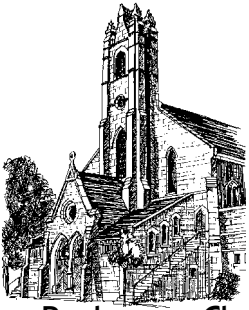


April 25, 2010

Greetings & Blessings



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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

John 21(The Message) Fishing

¹⁻³After this, Jesus appeared again to the disciples, this time at the Tiberias Sea (the Sea of Galilee). This is how he did it: Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed "Twin"), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the brothers Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. Simon Peter announced, "I'm going fishing." ³⁻⁴The rest of them replied, "We're going with you." They went out and got in the boat. They caught nothing that night. When the sun came up, Jesus was standing on the beach, but they didn't recognize him. ⁵Jesus spoke to them: "Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?" They answered, "No." ⁶He said, "Throw the net off the right side of the boat and see what happens." They did what he said. All of a sudden there were so many fish in it, they weren't strong enough to pull it in. ⁷⁻⁹Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Master!" When Simon Peter realized that it was the Master, he threw on some clothes, for he was stripped for work, and dove into the sea. The other disciples came in by boat for they weren't far from land, a hundred yards or so, pulling along the net full of fish. When they got out of the boat, they saw a fire laid, with fish and bread cooking on it. ¹⁰⁻¹¹Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you've just caught." Simon Peter joined them and pulled the net to shore—153 big fish! And even with all those fish, the net didn't rip. ¹²Jesus said, "Breakfast is ready." Not one of the disciples dared ask, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Master. ¹³⁻¹⁴Jesus then took the bread and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus had shown himself alive to the disciples since being raised from the dead.

What strikes me about this passage is how simply and smoothly the natural events in the disciples lives mix seamlessly with a supernatural act of the resurrected Jesus.

This must have been a very confusing time in the lives of the disciples. Their friend and teacher Jesus had just been arrested, executed, buried and had risen again. They had met him in his resurrected body, twice in the upper room. And it had all happened so fast. No wonder Peter had said, "I'm going fishing." First, it was an activity he knew well, a comfort zone, a place of normality. Second it was a place of relative quiet. The quiet sound of the waves lapping against the boat, the smell of seaweed and fish that lingered from previous trips. A place to think. A place to process mentally all that had been going on in their lives. A place where they could reflect on what Jesus had taught them and it now was taking on new meaning in the light of these latest events. A place to meditate.

So what if they didn't catch any fish that night. That only gifted them with a deeper quiet to think.

Imagine the stunning and beautiful sight of a glorious sunrise on the lake. Somehow refreshing. To their minds and their very souls. . "When the sun came up, Jesus was standing on the beach, but they didn't recognize him. ⁵Jesus spoke to them: "Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?" What a perfectly normal and typical fisherman's question. The answer was of course 'No'. What happened next was Jesus breaking into their consciousness again, gently but beautifully providing abundantly for their need. And then a dream come true. A barbeque on the beach with Jesus. I can only imagine the warmth of the morning sun, the freshness, the delicious aroma of the cooking fish, and the quiet soul-soothing chatter of the conversation. Take a few minutes right now, close your eyes, let your imagination transport you back to that morning, and participate. What would you be talking about? Can you taste the fresh caught fish? Can you hear and see Jesus sharing his words of love and encouragement? Stay there awhile. And see what he has to say to you.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin