

April 25, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH

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Introduction

In today's reading, John says he is telling the story of "the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead." There are two parts to the story: the great catch of fish and breakfast on the beach. The stories are tied together with themes of recognition, faith, and Eucharist.

Today's Gospel and Questions for Pondering

Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias.

He revealed himself in this way.

Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus,

Nathanael from Cana in Galilee,

Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples.

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

They said to him, "We also will come with you."

- What do you think were the thoughts and feelings of the disciples as they went fishing after the death of Jesus and after being present or hearing about times when Jesus appeared?
- Were they getting back to what was familiar?
- Were they “processing” all that had happened? Were they doubtful about what they had experienced, or marveling at the reality of Jesus’ being alive?

*So they went out and got into the boat,
but that night they caught nothing.
When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore;
but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.*

- What kept the disciples from recognizing Jesus?
- What keeps me from recognizing him in my daily life and activities?

*Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?"
They answered him, "No."
So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat
and you will find something."
So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in
because of the number of fish.
So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord."
When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord,
he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad,
and jumped into the sea.
The other disciples came in the boat,
for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards,
dragging the net with the fish.
When they climbed out on shore,
they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread.
Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught."
So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore
full of one hundred fifty-three large fish.
Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.*

- What do you imagine the disciples were thinking and feeling as Jesus told them to cast their nets again after a night catching nothing?
- When have you tried to do something unsuccessfully, then responded to an inspiration of Jesus or the Holy Spirit that yielded more than you

could have “asked for or imagined?”

Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast."

And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?"

because they realized it was the Lord.

*Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them,
and in like manner the fish.*

*This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples
after being raised from the dead.*

- There is such intimacy in Jesus’ invitation, “Come, have breakfast.” When has Jesus called you in this way?
- What bread and fish—food for the day, food for the journey—have you received from the Lord?

JOHN 21:1-14



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For Prayer

Read the passage again, stopping when you are moved to speak to Jesus.

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