

Resurrection Aftershocks

John 21.15-19

This is our last week to consider together another post-resurrection appearance of Jesus. Not that there aren't others. You may want to refer to 1 Corinthians 15.6-7 about that. And then there are the continued aftershocks, even today. Toward that end, answer the questions you can; don't worry about what you can't do!

Pastor Eric

Group Discussion: What's your experience with fishing? Do you typically have any luck?

Our story is dependent upon John 21.1-14. Read that section first. After having seen the risen Jesus more than once, what do you think the mindset of the disciples is at this point? Why does Peter decide to go fishing? What might be a reason (or two) that the disciples don't recognize Jesus according to verse 4? Still, they do what he tells them to do. Why? What overcomes Peter to cause him to leap into the water to swim to Jesus?

Jesus separates Peter and peppers him with three questions. Do you think there's anything to Jesus addressing Peter with his formal name, "Simon son of John?" Do you notice any substantial difference between the three questions Jesus asks? Why does Jesus ask him three times? Each time Peter affirms his love, Jesus leaves him with a certain instruction. What are those? Why is Peter "hurt" in verse 17? What is the meaning behind the very strange verse 18? How does it predict his death as the Gospel writer explains in verse 18?

Certainly, Jesus is gently restoring Peter after his epic failure to acknowledge even knowing Jesus. One of the aftershocks of the resurrection is restoration to right relationship for all who believe. Read Romans 6.4 and jot down your impressions. Note also 2 Corinthians 5.17. We are now called to love Jesus and express that love outwardly, for "we love because he first loved us" (1 John 5.19).

"When he died for us and was buried, we died and were buried with him,
and when he rose again from the grave, we were raised up with him."

TF Torrance, *The Trinitarian Faith*

We explored three parallel ways we also are called to love since love is both demonstrated and it's a choice we make. First, we *love by our service*. What's the significance of service? What has Jesus said about serving? What is the specific and unique way you have been called to serve? We also *love by our sacrifice*. How have you been called (or you are being called) to make sacrifices in order to love Jesus? Finally, we *love by our submission*. Note that according to Mark, Jesus' first words to Peter are almost his last recorded words to Peter (cf. Mark 1.16-17). What is the significance of "follow me" in this context? What is the significance of those words to you, personally?

What does this story tell you about your relationship with Jesus? What does it tell you about your relationship with others? Take some time to meditate on that and follow it up by writing a prayer to Jesus.

"If I were sure that I loved God, what would I do? When you have found the answer, go and do it."

CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity*