

Father John's Homily for the 3rd Sunday of Easter

Third Sunday of Easter: "Come and See" "Come and Eat" "Follow Me!"

Lectionary: 48 - Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19

Today, we celebrate the Third Sunday of Easter. We have a third revelation of the Risen Jesus to his disciples, especially seven of them in this appearance by the Sea of Tiberias or the Sea of Galilee. These seven disciples are: "Simon Peter¹, Thomas² (Didymus), Nathanael³ (Bartholomew), James⁴ and John⁵ (Zebedee's sons) and two other disciples^{6,7}.

Two Sundays ago, in the morning of the First Sunday of Easter, we had the first appearance of Risen Jesus to Mary of Magdala with Peter the Rock and John the Beloved; in the evening, we had the second appearance to ten disciples in the closed room where Thomas was absent.

Last Sunday, on the Second Sunday of Easter, we had the third appearance where Jesus invited Thomas to touch and see his wounds. After touching and seeing, Thomas believed with his proclamation: "My Lord, my God".

On the First and Second Sunday of Easter, Jesus appeared to His disciples in Jerusalem, the Land of Judah, to foreigners particularly Mary of Magdalena and Peter with John (Galileans). On the third day of appearance, Jesus revealed himself to his hometown people in his homeland, the Sea of Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee. According to the Gospel of John, this was the third and final appearance of the Risen Jesus. John does not record Jesus' appearance on the Road of Emmaus.

So, after Risen Jesus' revelation, His disciples left Jerusalem for their homeland and returned to their former profession. Jerusalem is about 75 miles or 120 kilometers by air (Google maps). Walking distance is about 160 km or about 100 miles from the City of Jerusalem to the Seashore of Tiberias.

John the Evangelist presents us four scenarios in this fourth revelation on the third day of appearance. The first story is **Disciple Fishing All Night** in which seven disciples spent **all night** fishing but they caught **nothing**. It was a fishless night. Here, we can see that John presents his symbolism of light and darkness. In his prologue, John assures that "the light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out." He also affirms that "the true light that shines everyone was coming into the world." In his chapter Eight, John points to Jesus, "I am the light for the world! Follow me, and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives life." So, the disciples were fishing all night in the dark and they caught nothing. Is that what we have been experiencing in our real life? Whatever we have done in darkness results in futility (no effect/nothing)! Now, it is light. In the early morning, Jesus came and asked disciples to throw their net again at the same place. They listened and "dragged in the net full of fish". It was a fish filled morning! "In it were one hundred fifty-three large fish ..." brings us to Jesus at the Wedding in Cana. Jesus instructed his disciples to fill up six-stone jars with water. Then, Jesus changed water into wine, the finest wine in abundance. Each jar is about 20 – 30 gallons, an average of 25 gallons per jar. The number of wines would be 150+ gallons (6 x 25). It is the same number of today's fish, 153 large fish. Jesus gave a command and came an Abundance of Fish! An Abundance of Wine! It is more than 1.000 bottles of wine for us today for one wedding! It is 153 large fish for one eight people Bed-Breakfast by Beach. In the beginning of his Gospel, John invites us to the Wedding in Cana and in the ending, John places us at the Seashore of Tiberias to see Jesus is indeed the Good Shepherd (John 10): "I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest". Has it abundantly related us to Jesus the True Vine in

John 15: "I am the vine, and you are the branches ... you can do nothing without me"? Disciples alone in the dark caught nothing. Disciples with Jesus in the light caught abundant fish.

It is the Lord! The young beloved disciple acclaimed! The older Simon Peter fearlessly jumped into the water and arrived at Jesus place. His companions followed him for a **Bed-Breakfast by Beach** which is the second story: "When the disciples got out of the boat, they saw some bread and a charcoal fire with fish on it." A charcoal fire brings us back to Holy Thursday evening (John 18) when Jesus was arrested and Peter was outside feeling cold in the dark. "It was cold, and the servants and temple police had made a charcoal fire. They were warming themselves around it, when Peter went over and stood near to fire to warm himself." Peter was cold outside and inside while he was being questioned three times and denied three times. That is third story: **Peter's Three Questions**

1. "Aren't you one of that man's followers?" "No, I am not!"
2. "Aren't you one of Jesus' followers?" "No, I am not!"
3. "Didn't I see you in the garden with that man?" "Once more Peter denied it, ..."

Above are three questions and denials around the charcoal fire in the land of the Jews!

Below are three questions and affirmations by the charcoal fire in the land of the Galileans!

1. "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than others do?"
Yes, Lord, you know I love you." "Then, Feed my Lambs"
2. "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"
Yes, Lord, you know I love you." "Then, Take care of my sheep"
3. "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"
Yes, Lord, you everything. You know I love you." "Feed my sheep"

What a story of faith! A charcoal fire and three questions.

Risen Jesus did not scold (s-cold) Peter. Jesus forgave Peter. Jesus healed Peter!

Risen Jesus also forgives and heals us as we accept His invitation:

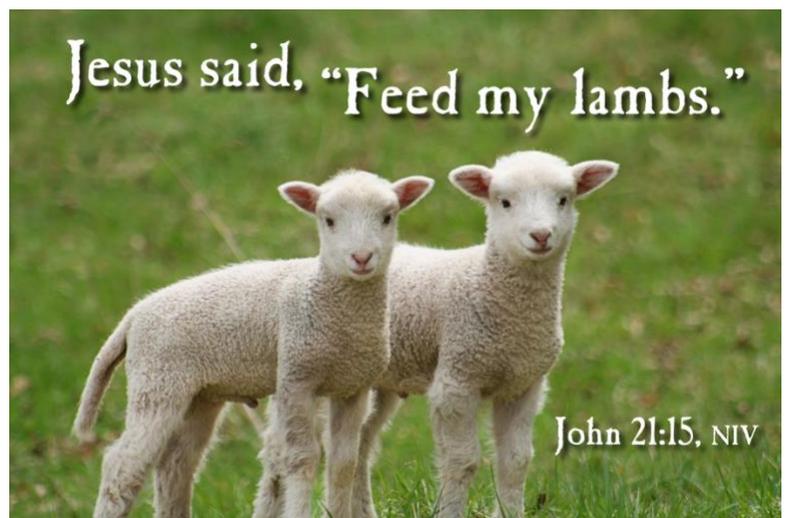
"Come and See" - "Come and Eat" - "Follow Me!"

"Follow Me!" On Holy Thursday evening, two disciples betrayed Jesus.

1. Judas looked back despair and hanged himself.
2. Peter looked forward in hope and became the rock upon which Jesus built his church.

Here comes the fourth story of this revelation:

Peter Followed Jesus. Jesus the Good Shepherd laid down his life for his sheep. Peter followed Jesus to be a good shepherd to lay down his life for his sheep. As Jesus anticipated Peter's death, eventually Peter was crucified upside down under Emperor Nero while he spent his last years praising Risen Jesus in Rome, Italy. Traditionally, Peter was counted as the first bishop of Rome, our first pope. He was also the first bishop of Antioch. "Follow Me" was what Jesus' last spoken words to us on earth in the light overcoming the dark.



In conclusion, let me continue my "Amazing, Isn't It?" - Three Resurrections Three Channels:

CBS = Come Believe See TBS = Touch Believe See TLC = Tend Love Care