

Gospel Reflections:
JOHN 21

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JOHN 21:1-11 – FURTHER APPEARANCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

- 1: After these things JESUS shewed Himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed He Himself.
- 2: There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of His disciples.
- 3: Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.
- 4: But when the morning was now come, JESUS stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was JESUS.
- 5: Then JESUS saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered Him, No.
- 6: And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.
- 7: Therefore that disciple whom JESUS loved saith unto Peter, It is The Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was The Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.
- 8: And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.
- 9: As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.
- 10: JESUS saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.
- 11: Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, and hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

Here The Lord repeats the miracle He employed to call his first disciples. Recall in MATTHEW 4:18-20, "And JESUS, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And He saith unto them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed Him." Isaiah records his call by The LORD in ISAIAH 6:8, "Also I heard the voice of The Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" The prophet answered, "...Here am I; send me!" So The Lord Incarnate called Peter and Andrew, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." They obeyed, as did Isaiah, and became fishers of men's lives and souls for The Kingdom of GOD! When we hear The Master calling, are we as ready to obey and go where He sends us?

JOHN 21:12-17 – LOVEST THOU ME?

- 12: JESUS saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask Him, Who art Thou? knowing that it was The Lord.
- 13: JESUS then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.
- 14: This is now the third time that JESUS shewed Himself to His disciples, after that He was risen from the dead.
- 15: So when they had dined, JESUS saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto Him, Feed My lambs.
- 16: He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? He saith

unto Him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love Thee. He saith unto him, Feed My sheep. 17: He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love Thee. JESUS saith unto him, Feed My sheep.

O what an awesome responsibility before The Judgement Seat of CHRIST to be placed by Him into positions of authority over the sheep of GOD's pastures, to be placed in The Seat of Moses, to be called to hold The Good Shepherd's shepherd staff of authority within His Body on earth, to be given the authority and power of the keys to The Kingdom, to be called to stand In Persona CHRISTI as a Minister of The Saviour's Victory, Grace and Mercy for His people! And O what a fearful thing to be so placed and fall in to sin, disrepute, error or corruption, to be found to have been an unworthy steward of The Church on earth when so called! O the fearful thought that one might be sent away by The Lord, "Depart from me, you wicked servant, for I never knew you!"

Sometimes, when men are called and elevated above the flock of GOD to be their shepherd in CHRIST's power and authority, they may forget that they too are called to walk humbly and faithfully before The LORD. The call to lead is a call to serve. The call to command in His authority is a call to lead as a faithful steward. So the man of GOD who is called as a shepherd in CHRIST should especially heed the call of PSALM 95:6-9, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before The LORD our Maker. For He is our GOD; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. To day if ye will hear His voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My work!" Let the one who leads walk before The Almighty with the heart of a faithful servant, knowing he is especially accountable to The Divine Master!

JOHN 21:18-25 – THE END OF THE BOOK OF JOHN

18: Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

19: This spake He, signifying by what death He should glorify GOD. And when He had spoken this, He saith unto him, Follow Me.

20: Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom JESUS loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth Thee?

21: Peter seeing him saith to JESUS, Lord, and what shall this man do?

22: JESUS saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou Me.

23: Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet JESUS said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

24: This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

25: And there are also many other things which JESUS did, the which, if they should be

written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain The Books that should be written. Amen.

So here is the beloved disciple John and Peter standing before The risen Lord. And again they receive the same Commandment which CHRIST used to call them initially, "Follow Me." And to all His Church, CHRIST commands us to faithfully tarry for Him. What does this mean? I say it means that we are to be about The Lord's work for His Kingdom daily in this life, knowing that He shall indeed Come Again, but until He takes us Home Above or we see Him returning in His Glory in the clouds, let us be about our Master's business!

We are not to be found lounging about the campfire when The Lord either calls us to His Judgement Seat or when He returns at His Second Advent! If we love CHRIST, we shall have a living faith that brings forth the good works of The Kingdom of GOD. So we read in JAMES 2:14-17, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone!"

Here I think JESUS is calling us to get up off our places of rest in our Sunday pews and get our hands dirty. There are the suffering, the dying, the lonely, the forgotten, the sick and injured, the poor, the widowed, the orphaned, the abused, the addicted, the afflicted, the crying all about us at the very doors of our Churches! What are we doing about it? Not that we should seek to do good works for our salvation or to be found righteous before His Throne. GOD forbid! But if we love CHRIST as He calls us to, where is our love for our fellow man? And not only for our fellow saints, but for the lost as well?

Let us remember what Saint Paul writes of our salvation – the same thing as Saint James - that CHRIST calls us to a living faith which brings forth the good works which He has set before us to do from before the foundations of the world, as in EPHESIANS 2:8-10, "For by Grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of GOD: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in CHRIST JESUS unto good works, which GOD hath before ordained that we should walk in them!" Christian, the battle is daily near!

Wake up, O sleeper, and enter into the battle for the lives and souls of men, if we do indeed love The Lord as He loves us! Let us take up the shield and buckler! Let us put on the full armor of GOD! Let us go forth, not as a lone soldier, but within The Army of GOD – The faithful Church on earth – to the daily fight of love to minister where ever and when ever He may call us to! Let us seize The Victory of The Cross of CHRIST and follow Him into the world! Fling wide open the doors of The Church, that the soldiers of The Cross may march forth together under His Banner!

For as Saint John says in I JOHN 5:4-5, “or whatsoever is born of GOD overcometh the world: and this is The Victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that JESUS is The Son of GOD!” In The Name of GOD The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost. AMEN!