

Sermon: May 1, 2022 by Lucy Brady

“Breakfast at the Beach”

John :21; 1-19

This is the third Sunday of Easter.

We came through the forty days of Lent and moved through the tragic days of Jesus’ crucifixion, death, and burial.

We arrived on Easter Sunday to discover with Mary Magdalene that not only was the tomb empty, but Jesus also appeared to Mary and us in that garden, not dead, but alive!

Hallelujah!

Easter is not just a one day event. In fact, it is a season that is celebrated for fifty days! From now until Pentecost on June 5th, we will hear more stories of Jesus sightings. **Hallelujah!**

Last week, the second Sunday of Easter, we find disciples together behind locked doors. We can imagine their sorrow over their loss. We can understand their fear; fear of being found the by the Jewish religious authorities, or fear that they might identified as traitors to the Roman government.

Deep down I think they may have also been afraid that if the story Mary told them was true- if Jesus was alive, what would he have to say to them? They knew they had abandoned him and even denied that they knew him.

When suddenly, Jesus stood among them, he did not berate them. He did not punish them. He said, “Peace be with you.” He showed them his wounds and they were filled with joy that it was him. Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Hallelujah!

John’s gospel tells us that he appeared also to Thomas, giving him the opportunity to see him, to touch his wounds and to believe. **Hallelujah!**

At the end of Chapter 20 we read: it

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you

may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

This good news is for us - you and me, so we too might believe "that Jesus is the Christ, and have life in his name."

As we turn our attention to what is happening on the beach on this third Sunday of Easter, it is important to note that there are only seven of the twelve original disciples present: Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James and John as well as two unnamed disciples.

Peter says to the others, "I'm going fishing." The six others say they will go too.

We can understand their impulse, can't we? When someone we love dies, we feel deep sadness and at first, even though we know there are things to be done, we are immobilized; we feel disjointed, like time has stopped,

Usually our family and friends gather to console and support us through all the rituals of saying goodbye: the visitation, the service, the graveside farewell, and a meal I like to call "The laying on of food."

Finally, we want things to get back to normal, because, a great loss jars our world and even though we know things will never be the same, we need a routine; we crave something familiar to help us move on.

So, we can understand Peter's need to do something familiar after all the focus on death and loss, He goes fishing. Not with a pole and a bucket and some worms, but with a boat and a net; a huge net that takes two people in order to throw it over the side of the boat way out into the sea, and great effort to draw it back in. They do this over and over all night, but each time they drag the nets back, they see - NO FISH!

Just at daybreak, Jesus stands on the shore, but the disciples do not recognize him. Jesus calls to them, "How is the fishing? Have you caught anything?"

"No," they shout back

"Try casting you nets on the other side."

They do and they can't haul the net in because there were so many fish!

John, the disciple Jesus loved, said, "It's the Lord!" Maybe he suddenly recalled another time when they fished all night with no success, and maybe he recalls the stranger in Peter's boat inviting him to move out into deeper waters. Maybe he remembers the huge catch and Being called to help Peter haul it in. Maybe he recalls the day he decided to follow Jesus.

We are not told.

We are told, when Peter hears John Say, "It is the Lord, he puts on his outer garment, because he was stripped for fishing, jumps into the sea swimming to shore.

Since they were only a hundred yards from shore, the others came along dragging the net full of fish.

When they reached the shore, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread.

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

The disciples knew it was the Lord, but no one said a word. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.

This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Hallelujah!

After breakfast, Jesus has a word with Peter.

He asks him a question three times and each time he uses Peter's formal name, as we would when we are signing a legal document or making a solemn vow.

"Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Meaning, "Simon do you love me more than fishing? Do you love me more than your old life?

Peter answer, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."

Jesus responds, "Feed my lambs,"

Jesus asks him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."

Jesus responds, "Tend my sheep."
Then he asks him the third time,
"Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he responds, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

Then Jesus lays out what the cost of loving him and following him would mean, and says, "Follow me."

These stories are for us. They are for us that we might believe and have life in Jesus, the Christ, the anointed one of God.

Hallelujah!

This morning, Jesus calls to us and invites us to breakfast, to break our fast:

- to break our fast from sorrowing.
- to break our fast from doubt and disbelief.
- to break our fast from shame, hopelessness, and despair over broken promises.
- Jesus calls us every day to the path of life and hope.

Resurrection is not a one day event. Resurrection can happen every day.

That is why I will sing Hallelujah with Ken Medema who will bless us with a song in a moment

"When my life grows tedious and my nights grow cold, I will sing "Hallelujah"

When my mind grows weary, and my flesh grows old, I will sing, Hallelujah, 'until death has lost its sting! I will sing!"

Hallelujah!

Amen

This is link to Ken Medema singing "I Will Sing Halleluiah"

https://youtu.be/jAzm_N7cofU

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