

Jn21:1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:

21:2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

21:3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

21:4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

21:5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."

21:6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

21:8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

21:9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.

21:10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

21:11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

21:12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"-knowing that it was the Lord.

21:13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

21:14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

Good morning, everyone.

It has been three weeks since we rejoiced with you in the resurrection of our Lord and offered Easter services.

On that morning, the disciples were in turmoil. No, not so much that morning, but rather the events after the Last Supper on Thursday evening were filled with confusion.

The disciples abandoned Jesus and scattered and fled.

Luke 22:31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan is permitted to wish to sift you as wheat.

22:32 But I prayed for you, that your faith might not fail. So when you get back on your feet, strengthen your brothers."

22:33 Simon said, "Lord, I am ready to go with you even to prison and even to death."

22:34 Then Jesus said to him, "Peter, I tell you, I am ready to go with you even to prison and even to death. Today, before the cock cries, you will say three times that you do not know me.

Matthew 26:31 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Tonight you will all stumble over Me. I will strike the shepherd, and the flock will be scattered. And the flock will be scattered.

26:32 But I, after I am risen, will go before you into Galilee.

Luke 22:44 And Jesus was in agony, and prayed more and more earnestly. And His sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood.

22:45 When he had finished praying, he arose and went to his disciples.

22:46 He said, "Why are you sleeping? 22:46 He said to them, "Why are you sleeping?"

Matthew 26:38 Then He said to them, "I am dying of sorrow. Wait here, and keep awake with me."

26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. But not as I will, but as Thou wilt.

26:40 Then He came to His disciples and saw that they were asleep, and He said to Peter, "Were you so unable to stay awake with Me even for a moment?"

26:41 Keep awake and pray, lest you fall into temptation. For the mind is hot, but the body is weak."

26:42 And he went a second time and prayed and said, "My Father, if there is no other way but to drink this cup, please let Thy will be done.

26:43 And when he came again, they were asleep again. Their eyes had become heavy.

26:44 So He left them as they were and went again and prayed a third time with the same words.

26:45 Then He returned to His disciples and said, "Are you still sleeping or resting? Behold, the hour is at hand. For the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.

Man's burning determination was in vain; he denied the Lord and fled. Even when Jesus was sweating like drops of blood, they fell asleep from exhaustion in the presence of the Lord who was suffering and praying, even though they could have reached Him by throwing stones. Their hearts were on fire, but their bodies were weak.

They were poor disciples who would have been branded as disqualified if they were sifted.

Luke 22:28 You are the ones who endured with me to the end during my trial.

22:29 Therefore as my Father has given me dominion over the land, so I have given it to you,

22:30 And I will cause you to eat and drink at tables in my land, and you will sit on thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

22:31 Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to sift you as wheat, and hath permitted it.

22:32 But I prayed for thee, that thy faith might not fail; and thy faith was not lost. So when you have recovered, give strength to your brothers."

After such turmoil. Early on the morning of the resurrection. The angel appeared to the women and spoke thus.

24:5 And when the women were astonished and afraid, and fell on their faces to the ground, these two said, "Why do you ask the Living One among the dead?

24:6 He is not here. He is risen. Remember what He told you while He was still in Galilee.

24:10 These women were Mary Magdalene, Johanna, and Mary the mother of Jacob. The other women who were with them also told the apostles about this.

24:11 But it seemed foolishness to them, and they did not believe it.

On the evening of the Day of Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the doubting disciples in the evening after He had met the women in the morning.

John 20:19 On that day, that is, the evening of the first day of the week, as the disciples were closing all the doors of their places in fear of the Jews, Jesus came in, stood in their midst, and said, "Peace!

20:20 And He showed them His hands and His armpits. The disciples rejoiced when they saw Him.

The resurrection of joy that the women speak of is incredible. And because of the Lord's glorious unbelief, they lock themselves up within and are afraid. The Lord appeared many times to these disciples who were unable to make up their minds.

On the way to Emmaus, to Peter, and to the disciples. He even ate a fish and showed it to them.

John 21:1 Later, Jesus revealed Himself again to His disciples at the sea at Tiberias. Here is how He revealed Himself to them.

Again the Lord met the disciples on Lake Galilee.

21:2 When Simon Peter was with Thomas, called Dedmon, and Nathanael of Cana of Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and the other two disciples.

21:3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing," and they said, "We will go with you. And they went out and got into a boat. But there was no catch that night.

Peter was with Thomas. Thomas is the one who said in John 20:25

When the other disciples said to him, "We have seen Him," Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the nails in His hands, and put my finger into His nails, and my hand into His side, I will never believe.

Although often referred to as "Doubting Thomas," he was an extremely zealous disciple of the Lord.

John 11:16 Then Thomas, who is called Dedomot, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go and die with the Teacher.

And when none of the disciples were silent, not knowing how to understand the Lord's words, he spoke up and asked the Lord, bringing out the Lord's words, which were cedar-like.

John 14:5 Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we do not know where you are coming. How can we know the way?

14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except by Me.

14:7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. But now you know the Father, and you have already seen him.

Nathanael is the one who was told this by Jesus.

1:47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, He said of him, "Behold, that man is the true Israelite. There is no deceit in his heart.

1:48 Nathanael said, "How do you know me? Jesus answered and said, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.

1:49 Nathanael answered, "Teacher, you are the Son of God. You are the king of Israel."

1:50 Jesus answered and said, "Do you believe me because I said that I saw you under the fig tree? Greater things than these thou shalt see.

1:51 And again He said, "I say to you well and truly. You will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

The fig is a tree that often grows in Palestine, and under the fig tree the Teacher of the Law often taught his disciples. Being under that tree means that they were learning God's law of

zeal.

The sons of Zebedee are James and John. They were called Boanerges, sons of thunder, by Jesus. They must have been temperamental.

Luke 9:54 When the disciples James and John saw them, they said, "Lord, how is it? Shall we call down fire from heaven to consume them?"

9:55 And Jesus turned and rebuked them.

Mark 3:17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James, he gave them the name of Boanerges, or sons of thunder.

There is also an incident in Matthew 20 where the other disciples were outraged because their mother had taken up with Jesus.

20:20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her children and knelt down and asked him for something.

20:21 Then Jesus said to her, "What do you want me to do?" She said, "Speak to me that these two sons of mine may sit in your kingdom, one on your right and one on your left.

And the other two disciples. The seven of them began to fish.

Even the Lord's disciples were not perfect. One by one, they were found by the Lord, trained and nurtured in their weakness.

Their precious teacher was Jesus. Although they were scattered and fled, their precious teacher was still Jesus.

Luke 24:49 Behold, I present to you what my Father has promised. Therefore remain ye in the city until ye are endowed with power from above."

It is a bit of a stretch to see how this could be consistent with what Jesus the Beggar said, but they were on Lake Galilee. But this would not mean that they were about to stop being disciples and go back to being fishermen, or that they were leaving the city for fear of persecution for rebelling against the Lord's promise.

Luke 24:52 They [worshipped Jesus] and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

24:53 And they were continually in the temple praising God.

Since this is the case, I believe that they happened to be in Galilee on this day. They may have been walking through the 50 days until Pentecost, sometimes spending only a short time in Galilee, recalling the events of that day when they went forward with the Lord Jesus.

It is hard to imagine that they were in such dire straits that they would starve to death if they did not fish for food, so they rowed out to Lake Galilee again, remembering Jesus, and were about to go fishing with their old fishing gear. But there was no catch that night. It was a lonely night.

21:4 At daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore. But the disciples did not know it was Jesus. It is as if the events on the way to Emmaus are happening again.

They cast down their nets, pull them up, ah, sigh deeply, and cast them in again. And as they did this over and over again, there was one person on the shore watching the night's fishing, Jesus, but the disciples did not realize it. Even if we don't realize it, Jesus is there by our side, watching the various things in our lives, the joys, sorrows, and happinesses. He is with us even when we don't realize it and think that we are the only ones who are isolated.

21:5 Jesus said to them, "Children, have you anything to eat?" They answered, "No."

Children." This word "children" also means infants, and may be understood as an invocation, "little children," or "infants.

Truly, before the Lord, the disciples, we human beings, are but "little children. And I think that Jesus is like a compassionate father, God is like our custodian, always paying attention to us and watching over us with care and concern, never taking his eyes off us for a moment. Even if children don't notice such a father's condition, parents are always concerned about it. Jesus also watched his disciples closely.

He asked them, "Children, do you have anything to eat?" This was an expression of the Lord's concern: "My children, you have worked hard all night long, but it seems you have nothing to eat, don't you? It was as if the Lord was saying to them, "My children, you have worked hard all night, but you seem to have nothing to eat, don't you?"

They replied, "No, we have not.

21:6 Then Jesus said to them, "Let down your nets on the right side of the boat and look. Then you will catch something. When they let down their nets, they caught so many fish that they could not pull them out.

I don't know much about fishing or fishing, but I guess there is a point to fishing. I can imagine that you have to be in the right place, at the right depth, and throw in the line or net at the right time to be successful. But these are professionals, former fishermen. And when I say

point, I think that casting a net to the right or left of a small boat is almost the same as casting it in the same place in a large lake. But obeying the Lord's Word is far beyond such human experience, calculation, and common sense. My arm is knackered, I'm never going to get it today. I've done it dozens of times before, throwing the net to the right side of the boat. I don't know who he is from, but he's a sucker for things. Did they know we couldn't catch anything and came here to make fun of us? If you think like this, you will never see God's glory.

John 11:35 Jesus shed tears.

11:36 And the Jews said, "Oh, how He loved Him!

11:37 But some of them said, "Could not this man who opened the eyes of that blind man have kept Lazarus from dying?"

11:38 Jesus was also moved violently, and entered into the tomb. It was a cave, and there was a stone set in it.

11:39 Jesus said, "Remove the stone. Martha, the sister of the dead Lazarus, said, "Lord, it already stinks. It has been four days.

11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

11:41 The people removed the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard my request.

11:42 I know very well that you are always ready to hear my requests. But I tell you this so that those who are standing by may believe that you have sent me.

11:43 Saying this, he called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!

11:44 And the dead man came out, his hands and feet covered with a cloth, and his face covered with a facecloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go home.

11:45 Many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus had done believed in Him.

John They let down their nets, and they caught so many fish that they could not bring them up; and when they had taken the fish out of the nets, they were so afraid that they could not bring them back in.

21:7 A disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "That is the Lord. When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he jumped into the sea, covered with his coat, because he was naked.

On the way to Emmaus, we received the breaking of bread and realized that it was the Lord in the prayer of thanksgiving and blessing at the table. And here again, at that place of the miracle of the great catch, they realized it was the Lord.

I think it is the same for us. When we are in agony and praying, we do not feel the Lord close to us, and we wonder if prayer is really the solution.

For them, it must have been a time when they remembered the miracle of the great catch in Luke 5 vividly.

Luke 5:1 Now when the crowds came to hear the word of God, Jesus was standing by the shore of the lake of Gennesaret,

5:2 And he saw two small boats gathered together there. The fishermen were getting out of their boats and washing their nets.

5:3 One of them was Simon's boat, and Jesus got into it and asked Simon to paddle him out a little from the shore, and he sat down and taught the crowd from inside the boat.

5:4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Row out to sea, let down your nets, and fish.

5:5 Simon answered and said, "Teacher, we have worked all night and have caught nothing. But you have spoken to us, so let us let down our nets.

5:6 And he did as he said, and the net was almost broken because of the great number of fish that came in.

5:7 And he gave a sign to his companions in the other boat to come and join him, and they came and filled both boats with fish. And they came and filled both boats full of fish, so that the boats almost sank.

5:8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down on Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am sinful. I am a sinful man.

5:9 For he and all who were with him were amazed at the great number of fish that were taken.

5:10 And the same was the case with James and John the son of Zebedee, Simon's companions. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will be fishers of men.

5:11 So they took the boat ashore, left everything, and followed Jesus.

The Lord is there. He was only 90 meters away. He was with us, and He saw and understood our loneliness, the draft in our hearts, our sorrow, and our hardships. In the midst of this excitement, Peter jumps into the lake with his jacket on and swims as fast as he can to meet Jesus.

21:8 But the other disciples stayed in the boat and went back, pulling a net with fish in it. For they were not very far from land, about fifty yards.

21:9 And when they came ashore, they saw a charcoal fire, and fish on it, and bread thereon.

21:10 Jesus said to them, "Bring me some of the fish you have just taken.

21:11 Simon Peter went and brought the net ashore, and found it filled with fifty-three big fish. There were so many, but the net did not break.

There Jesus was preparing breakfast. The smell of delicious grilled fish and bread over the warm coals. And there was the face of that warm and compassionate Lord Jesus.

People need a warm home like this after all. We need a home that accepts us, encourages us, strengthens us, forgives us, gives us strength to eat, laughs with us, and goes out again with a sense of relief.

There are many different families in this world, some severed, some broken, some harming, some not healing. There is fighting and misery. If there is a warm and accepting home, one can use it as a refuge and face the difficulties again, but without that base of heart, how can one stand firm?

Jesus is our home. Jesus is our refuge, our forgiver, and our healer.

I got 153 fish, Dad. Good job, kids. Now let's put the fish you caught here, too, and eat a meal together in thanksgiving. Children grow through praise, nurturing, recognition, and dependence.

21:12 Jesus said to them, "Come, eat your morning meal." None of the disciples asked willingly, "Who are you?" because they knew that He was the Lord.

21:13 Jesus came and took bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

21:14 This is the third time that Jesus has appeared to His disciples after He rose from the dead.

John 14:11 Believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me. If you cannot believe it, believe in the works themselves.

14:12 I say unto you well and truly, He that believeth in me, believeth also in me. He who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. Not only that, but he will do greater deeds.

14:13 For I am going to the Father, and the Father will be with me.

14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, I will give it you. 14:13 For the Father will be glorified through the Son.

14:14 For whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, I will give it you.

14:15 If ye love me, ye shall keep my commandments.

14:16 I will ask the Father, and he will send me another helper. 14:16 I will ask the Father,

and he will send another Helper to be with you forever.

Jesus is only 90 meters away and does not help us with our every move, but He is close to us, never far away, watching our every move, praying for us, knowing, working, helping, encouraging, using, and praising us. Combining His work with ours, He makes us fishermen who help and guide others in the land of affliction and difficulty. We thank the Lord for His constant guidance and companionship, we are healed in the One who is with us, and we desire to be finally used by His power in His Word and in His work.

Even I, who once died," Hymn 609

Though I have died once, Jesus has made me alive
Instead of iniquity and sin, there is new life
You will not leave me, but you will speak with me.
You will not forsake me, but I will follow you again.

Tears that flow, and burdens that rest on your shoulders
You will not leave me, but I will speak with you.
You will not forsake me, but I will follow you again.

No night shall be a night of groaning and crying, of sin and sinning.
I will rest near Thy throne, and always hear Thy songs.
I will not leave thee, nor forsake thee, nor forsake thee, nor forsake thee, but thou shalt speak with me.
You will not forsake me, but I will be with the Lord again.

You will lay your hands on me when I am sick, and strengthen me in my weakness
I will sing of the Lord Jesus, who is my God.
Let me speak with you, even for a moment of time
I will not leave you, but I will follow the Lord.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day's worship.

Jesus was standing on the shore, only two hundred peckis from the land, and this is the third time that He has appeared to His disciples after His resurrection from the dead. On the way to Emmaus, likewise to Peter, and then again this morning when he served the fish in front of the disciples. Jesus is never far away, always watching over us, calling us "children," speaking

to us, and revealing glorious miracles again if we do as He says. Thank you for your message today, "I am with you even though you cannot see me." Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.