

Children's Page

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Gospel - St John 21:1-19

Jesus appeared again to his disciples by the sea of Tiberius. Simon Peter and some of the disciples had been fishing all night but had caught nothing. As daylight dawned Jesus stood on the shore, although they did not recognise him, and he asked them, "Have you caught anything?" As they shook their heads in reply, he said to them, "Try once more over there, and you will catch something!"

They threw their nets back into the water and caught so many fish that their nets were ready to burst. As soon as Simon Peter recognised Jesus, he jumped into the water and swam to meet him.

On the beach Jesus had made a fire and was cooking breakfast for his friends, and they shared a meal together of bread and fresh fish. When they had finished eating, Jesus turned to Peter and asked, "Do you love me more than anyone?" "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you", Peter replied. "Then feed my lambs", Jesus said. Again Jesus put the same question to Peter, and again Peter gave the same reply. Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

When Jesus asked Peter the same question for a third time, Peter felt sad and hurt, and he said to Jesus, "Lord you know everything, so you must know how much I love you!" Again Jesus said to Peter, "Take care of my sheep." He told Peter how he would give glory to God, and then he said to him, "Come, follow me."

Reflection

In the Gospel reading, Jesus appeared to the disciples when they were in their boats. They were cold, tired and hungry, not having caught any fish overnight. They would have not taken any notice of the person on the shore. However, this person asked them to throw their nets into the water once again, and they were astonished that the nets were full of fish. At this moment Peter realised that this extraordinary event was through the power of God. He recognised Jesus and swam to meet him. Jesus then provided the meal for the disciples and cooked the fresh fish. Jesus then gave Simon Peter the opportunity to make up for past mistakes (when he denied knowing Jesus three times) Jesus asked him three times if he loved him. Peter's replies show his commitment and faith to him. Jesus believed Simon Peter and then invited him to care for and lead his followers.

Jesus gives us endless opportunities to say sorry and try again when we don't follow his ways and are unkind and unloving. As we rejoice that the Lord has risen let us renew our commitment to becoming a good witness to Him by our words, deeds and actions.

Prayer

Lord,

We pray for courage to be witnesses for Christ, and proclaim our faith to the world. Amen.