



Bread for the Journey

May 2022

Is it really You?

In the lectionary gospel readings for the Easter season, it is striking that in every one of them the risen Christ takes the initiative in speaking to his followers. Either to help them recognise him, or to challenge, or teach, or provide food. Admittedly, his followers were perhaps in no state, in their grief and distress at his cruel death, to think clearly, to say things clearly. But still, it was always the Risen Lord who speaks first. Here's one example:

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. (John 21:1,4-13)

Jesus calls out to his disciples in the boat, but they don't recognise him, his voice, at first.

Has it happened to you that you have thought Jesus may be speaking to you, but you weren't sure? What made you certain in the end?

In a similar incident in Luke 5, Simon Peter says in effect 'Look, we're fishermen, we know this lake. What do you know to tell me to let the net down on the other side?' He wrestles with Jesus' challenge.

Is this wrestling with Jesus' voice something you can identify with? What was the outcome, for you?

There came a time in the narrative above when the disciples 'knew it was the Lord'.

Has this been your experience? What did it lead to?

Jesus fed the disciples with bread and fish. *How is Jesus feeding you, nourishing you, just now?*

Give thanks:

*Thank you, dear Jesus,
for all that you have given me,
all that you have taken away from me,
and all that you have left me.*

(A prayer of St. Thomas More)

If you would like to speak confidentially about your life-in-God do contact one of the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf's, Spiritual Directors Group:

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