

# The Truth of Resurrection for Adults

Thomas Robinson, Easter, April 4, 2010

## John 21:1-19

<sup>1</sup> Afterward **Jesus appeared again to his disciples**, by the **Sea of Galilee**. It happened this way: <sup>2</sup> **Simon Peter, Thomas** (also known as Didymus), **Nathanael** from Cana in Galilee, the **sons of Zebedee**, and **two other disciples** were together.

<sup>3</sup> *"I'm going out **to fish**," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you."* So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they **caught nothing**.

<sup>4</sup> Early in the **morning, Jesus** stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> He called out to them, *"Friends, haven't you any **fish**?"*

*"No,"* they answered.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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**. <sup>8</sup> The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.

<sup>9</sup> When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, *"Bring some of the **fish** you have just caught."*

<sup>11</sup> Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

<sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, *"Come and have breakfast."*

**None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.** <sup>13</sup> **Jesus** came, **took the bread** and gave it to them, and did the same with the **fish**.

<sup>14</sup> This was now the **third time Jesus appeared** to his disciples **after he was raised from the dead**.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, *"Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"*

*"Yes, Lord,"* he said, *"you know that I love you."*

Jesus said, *"Feed my lambs."*

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, *"Simon son of John, do you love me?"*

He answered, *"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."*

Jesus said, *"Take care of my sheep."*

<sup>17</sup> The **third time** he said to him, *"Simon son of John, do you love me?"*

**Peter was hurt** because Jesus asked him the **third time**, *"Do you love me?"* He said, *"Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."*

Jesus said, *"Feed my sheep."* <sup>18</sup> *Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."* <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of **death** by which **Peter would glorify God**.

Then he said to him, *"Follow me!"*

## Luke 5: 1-8

<sup>3</sup> He (Jesus) got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and ... sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, *"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."*

<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, *"Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."* <sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their

nets began to break. ....<sup>8</sup> When **Simon Peter** saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "*Go away from me, Lord; because I am a sinful man!*"

---

## The Race to Jesus

"Christ is risen!" "He is risen, indeed!" The events of this last week 1980 years ago took Jesus' followers through a whiplash of experiences, glorious and frightening, beautiful and horrific, suffused with their own puzzlement and intense learning as they surrounded Jesus and tried to make out whether they were about to overthrow the Romans and the temple or all be arrested for treason. In spite of Jesus' explicit predictions, they did not expect his horrific crucifixion nor his resurrection. They had no categories to deal with it till it confronted them.

The resurrection narratives take us into the vivid, diverse, almost raw experiences as the disciples were brought face to face with something utterly new in human life: Someone who had conquered death, gone through death and out the other side. The same body, but utterly transformed, alive!, never to die again. Resurrection meant the end of the world, but it was here, now in Jesus. New creation begun.

In Jn 21 the beloved disciple focuses on Peter's experience - a vivid picture of his friend racing all out to get to Jesus. Luke 5 shows us that Peter had a similar experience with Jesus early on. He had pushed Jesus away, but Jesus refused to go and called him. Foot-washing: Peter pushed Jesus away but he refused to go. Denial pushed Jesus away, but Jesus stayed and Peter stayed. Race to tomb. Jesus appeared. Real. Now he can't wait to get to Jesus, whatever it brings.

## Resurrection and the Whole Adult

We sometimes make fun of Peter, but John knows him in the light of a whole life and death. He and the others are complicated, mixed up adults like us. Jesus' death and resurrection touches and reshapes every aspect of our life and world view.

Our Grown-up Intellect. They knew the world and were as skeptical as we would be. Events confronted them that they had to deal with. They struggled: "None dared ask him..." Their view of the world they lived in changed. No leap in the dark. "He is risen" is not metaphor but solid fact. We live in a world open to God, intelligence, purpose, hope, meaning, real responsibility. Not mindless, meaningless.

Our Grown-up Emotions. We live lives with complex emotional, relational depth. Things break down, we're hurt, we hurt others, we experience shame, guilt. We also find fulfillment, joy. Peter has been with Jesus in fear, commitment, devotion, confusion, pride, emotional betrayal. Jesus comes to him with new creation, forgiveness, new life - real and substantive healing. Resurrection now.

Our Grown-up Will. We like control - free will. Jesus takes his rightful place as creator, Lord. But what a Lord! He loves extravagantly in order to evoke from us that responding love that willing receives a commission - a free servant of love, a full adult who runs to Jesus: here is reality, healing, love, purpose, meaning, me.

## Jesus Prunes, Heals, Sends!

Jesus takes Peter seriously. The wrongs are real. He probes till it hurts, to prune out what is cancerous, destructive, so that the new life of new creation can flourish.

Jesus does not promise an easy road. Peter will die. It won't be easy. But that death will be part of Jesus' larger truth of resurrection, defeat of death, God's glory.