

May 5, 2019

John 21:1-17

Jesus' followers don't recognize him, again

Talked about this on Easter Sunday, Jesus is first recognized in relationship – being called by name, breaking bread together

This is true in today's story: after a night of fishing and catching nothing, following the stranger's advice, they catch a "boat-load of fish"

This prompts the "disciple whom Jesus loved" to tell Peter that it is Jesus, who promptly jumps overboard to get to Jesus

The others bring the boat to shore, gather round Jesus, who invites them to breakfast.

In the sharing of food, they are convinced it is Jesus, but not willing to ask directly

It is Jesus, but doesn't look like Jesus

This tells me that Jesus is alive and well and working in and through my neighbor

Which prompted me to be asking you in worship this Easter season "Where have you met Jesus?"

This was all I was going to share with you, but then, working on the script the youth presented, I came to understand why the given reading from John's Gospel included Jesus asking Simon if Simon loved Jesus

Scholars: Simon Peter denied Jesus three times, three times questioned

But there is more than this

Jesus challenges Simon

- Feed the little ones
- Lead the big ones
- Make sure everyone has enough to eat

Seeing this, it dawned on me:

If and when Simon Peter does these things, he is being Jesus to those he encounters.

Jesus is not just to be found in our neighbor

He is to be found in us!

When we wash feet, when we serve, when we are, as the hymn says, "slaves" to those in need around us, we embody Jesus

In and through us – He lives

So, this Easter season I want you to take some time and give some thought to two questions:

- Where did I meet Jesus in my life?
- When have I been Jesus to someone else? Or, how can I be Jesus to someone else?

Pondering these questions, with all humility, will open the eyes of your heart and allow you to see the face of God in new way.

Amen.