

## **Easter Day 4**

Wednesday April 5, 2018

### **Reading:** John 21:1-14

<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> 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.

### **Reflection**

People know when they are being treated like a project. It’s why we all feel so apprehensive when a Jehovah’s Witness or a Mormon comes knocking at our door. They have an agenda which rooted in their duty rather than our humanity. It’s a reminder for us, as Christians on mission, to check our motives. We can quickly look like Peter bored on the beach.

Peter’s a fisherman by trade, same with James and John. So, when they get home, even after the resurrection appearances and the imparting of the Spirit, when life goes still they do what they know; they fish. For them, this is steady work which will occupy them and give them direction and purpose. However, in this instance, their work is fruitless, or fishless. Then along comes Jesus and directs them to cast again in a particular place. And, wonder of wonders, their nets are full but without breaking.

This could just be a miracle to show, once again, the resurrected and embodied Jesus, but when we remember the other gospel callings of the disciples, the promise is that Jesus will make them fishers of men. This ties into the sending in the power of the Spirit from yesterday. Jesus has been training these folks for mission for three years. But, how will they approach this calling? As duty with an agenda irrespective of person? Or, as Jesus leads and guides? That’s still the question for us today.

We are all called to participate in the mission of God, no question. But, will we corner every person trapped with us on an elevator in order to force a conversion? A.B.C. (Always Be Closing)? Or, will we treat people with dignity? How? We will do that by paying attention to the presence and direction of the Spirit of Jesus in us. Where and when we will let down our nets and pull them up. Notice the disciples caught 153, not every fish in the sea. This isn’t about numbers or quotas, this is about faithfully being attentive to Christ.

### **Prayer**

Caller of men and director of mission, help us to be attentive to the voice of your Spirit. Forgive us for treating your mission like a cold duty and our neighbour like dead fish. Fill us with love. Amen.