

Easter 3C 2016

I have often asked myself why Peter and the other disciples were in Galilee fishing. After all, the risen Lord had already appeared to them twice in Jerusalem and poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon them. So why were they in Galilee? Why were they fishing?

As strange as it may seem, I suspect the disciples did not realize how much had changed. They did not understand how Jesus' resurrection had changed their lives. Of course, they knew he was risen and alive. But they did not understand that the resurrection had changed everything. They did not understand that they could not go back to their old way of life—a life of fishing—because everything had changed; everything was different now. They did not understand how the resurrection of Jesus had changed their lives and the life of the world.

But when Jesus appeared to them a third time risen and alive, they began to understand that everything had changed. There was no going back to their old way of life because the life-giving power of the Lord's resurrection had entered their life and the life of the world. It was now the time to proclaim the good news of the resurrection. The resurrection had changed everything, and they could now live in an entirely new way.

What happened to the disciples can happen to us. We celebrate the feast of the Lord's Resurrection, but we do not understand how much the resurrection has changed our lives and the life of the world. We do not understand that something new, something different has entered our lives and the life of the world. And so, like the disciples, we

slowly drift back to our old way of life, as if nothing has changed, as if everything has remained the same, even though Jesus has been raised from the dead.

But whether we acknowledge it or not, the resurrection has changed everything and nothing in our lives or the life of the world is quite the same. Through the resurrection God has broken into our broken world and destroyed the cycle of sin and death so that we can live in a new way. Through the resurrection, God has released the power of the life-giving Spirit so that we can live in what St. Paul calls “newness of life.” Through the resurrection, God has freed us to be free from sin and death so that we are no longer compelled to sin; we no longer have to fear death.

When the disciples finally understood experienced the power of Jesus’ resurrection, their lives were forever changed. They no longer feared death because they knew the resurrection of Christ is stronger than the power of death. They were no longer enslaved to sin because the risen Christ had freed them to live by the power of God’s Spirit. Everything was different; everything was new; everything had changed.

Imagine what our lives would be like if we understood and accepted the power of the resurrection. Imagine *how* we could live if we lived by the power of the resurrection. Imagine *what* we could do if we lived by the power of the resurrection. The resurrection has changed everything. Nothing will ever be the same because God has changed everything. If we live in the risen Christ, sin has no power over us. If we live in the risen Christ, death cannot conquer us. If we allow the power of the resurrection to enter our lives, our lives will be changed because God has made everything new in Christ.