**“Dive In”**

Acts 9:1-22

Revelation 5:8-14

John 21:1-14

Easter 3, May 1, 2022

“After this Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and He revealed Himself this way: Fishing, the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and **threw himself into the sea**. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.”

“It **is the Lord**”. **He is risen!** He **is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

**Text**

These texts provide my personal favorite **visuals of the Lord Jesus raised from the dead, and alive and well** … motivating, also, **my reactions to that**. Jesus is shown quite alive and involved after having died viciously upon a cross, yet worthy (risen) to be aggressively dove-toward and swam-to where recognized, begged-for (and noted worthy to provide Gospel that alone He can). So, a full range of **emotions** are here (presented to us because of this) in our readings: **hatred to despair to blasé and uncertain, but giving way to extreme humility in Saul and joy in John looking at the Revelation to an exhilaration in Peter on a fishing boat causing him to, simply, “not wait for the boat” to get to the shore and Jesus**.

He **rose (Jesus did)**. And **people began to look for a new norm after that**. Disciples headed back to Galilee from Jerusalem a couple of weeks in, still together, because He’d said He’d meet them there, 7 finally back to work with some fishing. At the end of their **trying to be productive**, He stood upon the beach and hollered out to them “Children, do you have any fish?” and they said “No” and yet noted how He called them “children” (who they didn’t at first recognize at the distance they were from shore with dawn just breaking). “Try the right side of the boat one more time” He called out. “I’ll make sure you find some. Then bring them to shore and join Me for breakfast … I’m cooking.” They cast their net one more time (on the side that He’d said to) and then weren’t able to haul it in for of the quantity of fish (153 the account says). Peter didn’t even wait to help with the catch, but **dove into the water** after John announced that “it is the Lord”. It says that he “put on his outer garment for he was stripped for work and **threw himself into the sea**”, swimming (clothed) the length of a football field to **get to Jesus**…..

So, how’s your week gone? Are you back to some “normal” from Easter? Work and school and home no longer stressed or effected by the holidays and Holy weekend like they maybe were a couple of weeks ago? Things **quieter** … or **different?**

Jesus (**into** **any of the result of that), steps (and still does) with His risen self, which is THE POINT here**. The Lord may be be subtle about the results, and unexpected about what He’s doing or will do, yet He’s very much **around since His resurrection to be discussed and noticed and dove-toward and enjoyed by disciples, providing Himself to them in real ways which are all Good News Gospel which He (risen, alone) can open and unpack, and bring to bear in believer’s situations and contexts** …

… which is the **point** and **crux** of John’s Gospel account plus his Revelation written and Saul’s account of change and then calling. For people wishing to express hatred like Saul (up until his meeting with the Lord on a journey to Damascus), the risen Jesus encountered him, stepping in to confront him there: “why are you persecuting Me?” to which Saul asked “who are you, Lord?” “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting by making it your mistaken duty to hunt down My followers who are, just, men or women belonging to the Way / **My Way**”. One of Saul’s **targets in this persecution** Jesus made his **tutor**, and **Saul became Paul changed by the resurrected Lord to submit to the divine Way … even help stand up for it**.

And John just thought he was in for another Sunday morning worship service, yet shown Jesus fully glorified with all of Heaven (the same Lord who he recognized risen and on a seashore, yet now unpacked in majesty as sacrificial Lamb from God in the heavenly throne room awaited by all the hosts of Heaven for what just He could accomplish (even up there) in unpacking the Gospel of forgiveness with a reconciled relationship between God and man. He (John) wept bitterly (it says in the text introducing this **Good News section**) because nobody in Heaven or on earth could ever save the world needing it **but Him**. And there **He (Jesus) was having defeated eternal death and Hell and stepping into His rightful place of presentation in Heaven’s throne room, taking the scroll and pealing its seal away, opening it to all of creation in front of the Father who also loved seeing that “newness of life”**.

Then there’s fishermen (or workers in an office or retail place or at a home desk and parents or children (students at school) and families and friends just being family and friends (and sports team-mates), then someone **notes Jesus and identifies Him clearly WITHIN A CONTEXT**, and **Peter forgets work and just DIVES IN to (as fast as he could) swim to shore where Jesus becomes identified as standing**.

## Application

Do you have a **post Easter** **new norm?** No doubt, you’ve gotten (or even had) to do most of the **regularly practiced things:** you move about, attend (you and your family) to the services at church, you go to work or school, and you might have even gone fishing. But the Lord here stands again **shown risen and functioning (interacting) but had once died and was buried yet now lives and reigns over all things (even your breakfast)**.

For you, **get reminded** again that the Father sent Him to save you (be your Savior) who saved you with all other sinners, shedding His both human and divine blood (necessary to save, so **carries** **that value** so **to do that**). He **rose then (the grave not able to hold Him) and showed Himself alive to people after death, so that all who’d ever live would have- and need-to contend with a sacrificed-then-raised Savior and Lord**.

Then He **gave perspective for everything you and I could call habit or daily life and situation** by divine vision (earth and Heaven together in the same scene with Him as the Savior and ruler of it all still concerned and intimately involved, **winning yet still trying to completely win you and all others of His creation**). He **interacts with earth … and that even after His ascension** (to meet Saul to convert him) and, before ascending, cooking breakfast for some fishermen and talking to them, making them useful beyond (well beyond) just the catching of fish. **Saul became an effective (maybe the most effective) missionaries for the Gospel, John told the world what Heaven looks like. And Peter and his six fishing partners became apostles sent to where we’re their result. We are in that process (continuing, we’re given to), to mature children to the Heavenly kingdom and enlightening friends into that**.

I **do know**, pretty much, how your weeks have gone since Easter (the big one). They’ve **gone blessed like mine**, sometimes in spite of their “normal” feeling (and there’s that “normal” word again). They’ve **gone changed** because of Christ crucified and risen, and I hope you “**feel” that**, yet the **fact remains no matter how you “feel” about it all the time**.

I, however, love the image of **Peter going about his “norm” but, then, noticing the Lord Jesus and “DIVING IN TO SWIM TO HIM” with abandon**. I pray that **your “new norm” because of the resurrection of Christ** has some **CONSCIOUS** moments like that. “It **is the Lord involved with you**”. **He is risen!** He **is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God, in +Jesus’ name**. Amen.