

Eucharistic Homily

John 21:1-14

4/15/18

In John 21, Jesus shows us just how deeply personal and relational the gospel really is. We often think of the gospel as a set of propositional truths. We tend to think of salvation in abstract, technical terminology. But our text for today shows us that the gospel is first and foremost a person—the risen Jesus—and that salvation takes the form of Jesus serving us a meal. Jesus doesn't just forgive our sins and send us on our way; He invites us to feast with Him. He welcomes us into His family and serves us. He restores us to fellowship with Himself and with all believers.

I think that the breakfast Jesus prepared on the beach shows us that Jesus' death and resurrection is all about restoring fellowship with God *and* men. If fish, which come from the sea, represents Gentiles, and bread, a product of the land, represents Jews, I think Jesus is showing us that He died to reconcile both Jew and Gentile in His own body through the cross. Jesus is our peace, and that means that He brings us peace with God *and* peace with our fellow man. This, Paul tells us, is the mystery of the gospel that has now been revealed: Jews and "Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel" (3:6).

When we gather at God's Table with people from different ethnicities, different nationalities, different socioeconomic classes, different age groups, and different walks of life, we are bearing witness to the new way of life that Jesus has instituted in His Church. Jesus has incorporated us all into His Body, and now He gives Himself to us in this Communion meal that we might truly become the one, glorified body of Christ on earth.

If you've been baptized into Christ and are seeking to live faithfully and obediently for Him, you are welcome to this feast that Christ Jesus has prepared for us. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

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