

"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

(John 21: 3 NIV)

We are an after-Easter people. Each year Easter comes and goes pretty much like a holiday. We go through Lent and Holy Week and then celebrate with our Sunrise Services and Worship. But after that things are pretty much back to normal. Very seldom does Easter bring about a change in our lives or a new direction in our mission as disciples.

While we have 2,000 years of history to deal with since the first Easter the first disciples had only a few weeks to process everything that had happened. After the tomb was found to be empty on Easter morning Jesus came and met with them several times in different ways. His purpose was to strengthen and encourage them as they faced the decision of what to do next.

It was not an easy decision. Their tendency, like ours today, was to go back to doing what they were used to. The original disciples, led by Peter, decide they will try fishing again. After all, they had been successful fishermen before they met Jesus and they should be able to go right back into that line of work.

But they catch nothing on their own. Once again Jesus comes to them to help, encourage, and guide. It is interesting that, as far as we know, the disciples never try their old occupation again. The change of Easter begins to take hold. On Pentecost, the disciples will receive the Holy Spirit and then the change that was a spark becomes a raging fire. They are never the same after that as they become great preachers, evangelists, and martyrs for the faith. All because Jesus came to them after Easter standing in their presence and promising to always be with them (Matthew 28:20).

Let us resolve to never be the same after each Easter we have. Let us pledge that each year, as long as the Lord tarries, we will be different than before, always seeking to be the disciples God has called us to be. Because, like the first disciples after the first Easter, Jesus calls us to always seek to do his will anew and fresh. May we remember that he is not dead but alive and will always be with us as St. Patrick prayed:

**Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart
of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth
of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.**

Have a great month!
Pastor Tim