

The Way of Light



STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION



Station 9: By the Sea of Tiberius



RESPONSE:

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you!

Because by your Cross and Resurrection you have redeemed the world.



Station 9: By the Sea of Tiberius

“Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing’. They said to him, ‘We will go with you’. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them,... ‘Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some’... They were not able to haul it in for the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’... When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread... Jesus said, ‘Come and have breakfast’.”

John 21: 3-4, 6-7, 9, 12



Station 9: By the Sea of Tiberius

The distraught apostles had been fishing hopelessly all night. A stranger came to the shore at dawn and directed the men to an overwhelming catch. John watched this stranger closely, finding the stranger's actions very familiar. Suddenly, John cried out to Peter: "It is the Lord! Our Jesus knew we loved the warmth of a morning fire, sensed the best place to fish. He knew our deepest hungers, too, and yet our wavering hearts.

This third appearance of Jesus was so timely. These men were seeking affirmation after agonizing all night long. Yes, each were worried if these three years were moving toward ending. Already, Judas had fizzled out and with their money, too. Then, not even one fish to show till morning. Maybe it was time to throw in the towel, as well.

Yet, Jesus knew the perfect fishing spot, served their fish, had the bread ready. Gave it to them. They savored once again the Lord's "heart and spirit." His assurance was so enlivening: I'm with you on the journey always! My Spirit will always be with you!

When have you experienced such a revitalization?

RESPONSE:

The Lord is risen! Let us praise Him who called us out of darkness into the way of light. Alleluia!



Station 10: The Forgiveness of Peter and the Command to Feed the Sheep



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Station 10: The Forgiveness of Peter and the Command to Feed the Sheep

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’... He said to him the third time... Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep....’”

John 21: 15, 17



Station 10: The Forgiveness of Peter and the Command to Feed the Sheep

Out of all of the things in the world Jesus could have said to Peter after he professes his love, why do you think he says, “Feed my lambs”? And then again, “Feed my sheep”.

Feeding lambs, literally, is something I’ve done. When I was 4 years old, my Mom went back to teaching, so I stayed at our neighbors during the day. They raised sheep, and in spring when the lambs were born, there was always one or two each year that needed to be fed by hand. They were fed warmed milk from a glass soda bottle with a nipple on the top, and you held the bottle upside down for them to drink out of it. It was an incredible experience that I remember to this day!

When they are first born, lambs need round-the-clock nourishment. Sheep also seem to graze constantly when food is available. As his appointed leader of the church here on earth, I think Jesus was telling Peter exactly what he wanted him to do and that it is a message to us as well. If you love Jesus, then feed His sheep. Do this by caring spiritually for yourself, for those who are journeying with you, and for the “lambs” in His flock, the most needy and vulnerable among us.

How have you been feeding His sheep lately including yourself? Is it enough?

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