

Good Friday Reflection

4/10/2020

John 21:1-14

The disciples are still recovering from the loss of their Messiah. Seven of them have gathered and have returned to their old profession. Jesus has appeared to the group twice since his death and resurrection. The three appearances of Jesus seem to be an effort to calm and reassure the disciples, to bring some normalcy back into their lives. Jesus' message in the first two visits was that His peace was still with the disciples. Just as Jesus had first called the disciples as they were fishing, he now mirrors that call. He is about to commission the disciples to Feed His Sheep. He sets the tone for that commission with a simple meal.

I believe there is a parallel to sending the disciples out to be "fishers of men" and the disciples sitting in the boat and being unsuccessful in catching fish. They had apparently been fishing all night with no success. But, when they listen to Jesus, believe in Him, and follow His instructions, they suddenly have more success than they can imagine. Such a large haul of fish would probably have torn their nets, but following Jesus and relying on him, they were able to succeed.

2000 years later we are still called to follow Jesus and "Fish for People". In the middle of this COVID crises, more than ever we need to trust in Jesus and follow his lead. We need to love each other and hold each other up the best we can. And above all we need to remember that we have not been abandoned by God, but rather are enfolded in His Peace.