

Meeting the Risen Christ: Jesus Meets Us When Adrift

John 21:1-14 || Pastor Shawn Gendall || 15 May 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: Tell about your best day either at the beach or in the mountains.

Worship: [Psalm 89:5-8](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?*)

Sermon Summary for [John 21:1-14](#) (*Read aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

The big theme of John 21 is that of revelation – how Jesus reveals more of Himself and His Kingdom to us in our need. God knows what it means for us to truly flourish: our need to recognize the truth about the condition of the world and of our own brokenness, our need for a vision of the future as we live out our calling as God's children, our need to cultivate lives of self-control that prioritize God's will above our own, and our need for courage to act on this vision so that we might glorify God and live as His people in the world ([Col 1:27-29](#)). So what does Christ reveal to the disciples – and therefore to us – in this story?

When we are drifting, Jesus reveals His words // Following the resurrection, Jesus had made two appearances in Jerusalem. In the days that followed, the disciples began to disperse at Jesus's invitation. This group of seven (mentioned in John 21) went to Galilee, returning to the familiar fishermen's lives they knew as they processed all they had witnessed. In the providence of God, this becomes a beautiful canvas upon which Jesus paints the picture of integrated, all-of-life discipleship. He cares about us as He cared about them: entirely and wholly. Christ calls to these men in the early light of day, before they could even see who it was. All they have is His words. This is an invitation for us to do the same – especially in times of drifting or questioning – and listen to His words. For in our Savior's words we will find love, care, concern, and wisdom.

When we are powerless, Jesus reveals His power // During times of healing, recovery, or transition, we often turn to something familiar that we're good at to process. But God doesn't ease the minds of these fishermen with success. Instead, they find frustration at their fruitlessness, and it's then that Jesus speaks His words of power to them. He yearns for us to flourish – not necessarily relationally or financially – but in ways that He alone can provide as we listen to His voice, trusting that His power and presence are enough for us. Because we recognize that we are broken people who don't have it all together ([2 Cor 12:9-10](#)).

When we are hungry, Jesus reveals His love // Will we seek the love of Jesus, even in times of hardship, where we feel ourselves drifting? And will we let Him love us? We have a Lord who loves and cares deeply for us even in our worst moments – just as He did with these men who had abandoned and betrayed Him just days earlier. Yes, He is the Author and King over all creation. His words are the eternal and impassable decrees that hold the universe together. His promises are the promises over all creation, which is being renewed and restored through the Gospel. And in and through Him we find victory over death. But Jesus is also deeply personal: a man who rises early to meet His exhausted friends by the lakeshore to build a fire and cook them breakfast. And this same Savior loves us this personally and deeply too ([Col 1:15-23](#)).

Discussion Questions *(You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)*

When we are drifting, Jesus reveals His words

- Which of the people in the boat do you identify with most in this story? Why?
- How is Jesus caring for His disciples in this passage? What do we learn about Jesus' character?
 - Even though the disciples do not see Him, they know his voice. What does this mean for us?
- How do you hear God's voice most clearly? Do you long to hear His voice with greater clarity?

When we are powerless, Jesus reveals His power

- Given his recent failures, what type of mental / spiritual space might Peter be in?
- Why did these professional fishermen hear and heed the advice to try the other side of the boat?
- In what other instances had Jesus demonstrated His control over nature to these same disciples?

When we are hungry, Jesus reveals His love

- Jesus could have revealed Himself to the disciples in any way; what made this way so significant?
- How were Jesus's actions intentional for His friends to show them His love?
- How does this small act of Jesus help us understand His nature?
 - How does it compare to the circumstances surrounding His death for both Him and His disciples?
- If you recognized Jesus, would you hop out of the boat like Peter?
 - What does it look like to hop out of the boat in your own life right now?

Prayer

For this week's Prayer Guide for personal or group use, click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Prayer & Gratitude

Check out the PCC Pray for Me Campaign at <https://pacificcrossroads.org/prayforme/>. Consider signing up to pray for PCC children or families as a Community Group.