

Series: Believing and Living; Sermon: **It Is the Lord!**

Delivered by: **Ben Panner**, college pastor; Date: April 11, 2021

Bible text explored: John 21:1-14

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon 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.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. [ESV]

Review and application:

After the empty tomb events of Easter morning, John reported on Jesus' appearances to his gathered disciples that evening, and a week later (John 20: 19-29) and, in two added sentences, summarized his purpose for writing this Gospel. But then he decided to add an epilogue.

1. What was not finalized about Jesus pre-ascension appearances? (See Matthew 28:10)
What "lows" were the disciples facing after the Easter "highs"?
How have you weathered this pandemic-dominated environment since our Easter celebration last week?
2. What (verses 1 and 14, above) appeared to be incomplete about the resurrected Christ's self-revelations?
How could this added Gospel section solidify the confidence of readers in the reality of the Resurrection?
3. On these disciples' return to Galilee, the story begins (verses 2-3) with a miserable night. Ironically a victorious empty tomb was followed by the defeat of empty nets. Do you think the timing of Jesus' revelation was intentional?
4. Something about the post-resurrection Christ was different (verses 4-6), leading to initial uncertainty. But how does his welcoming question and his demonstrated power over nature bring clarity? (See Luke 5:4-7.)
While John identified the man on the shore first (verses 7-9), what did Peter's response reveal about his eagerness for reconciliation?

5. How (*verses 10-13*) did Jesus make his lordship clear, but also welcome the disciples' participation?
How was this breakfast parallel to the feeding of the 5,000? (See *John 6:1-11*.)
6. What evidence do the details recorded in this passage give of eyewitness testimony?
What (*John 20:29*) did Jesus say to Thomas about those who could not be eyewitnesses?
7. What basis do we have for confidence in the reliability of the Scripture record? (See *Luke 1:1-4, John 5:39-40*.)