

Sunday, July 2, 2017

Forest Hills UMC

4th of July Sunday; Holy Communion

Sermon: “Breakfast with Jesus”

Rev. Dr. David Werner

Scripture: John 21:1-17 (The resurrected Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish)

Text: John 21:12 “Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’”

Blurb: Think about those wonderful invitations by dear friends when they take you out to coffee.

It’s a rich time of great sharing, catching up, and simply enjoying each other. It reminds you of what your friendship is really all about. It’s the same with Jesus. We need times to “go out to coffee” with Jesus! It revives our faith, awakens hope within us, and releases the Holy Spirit within us. This Sunday we’ll see how Jesus called His first followers out to breakfast, a time that changed their lives and set them on a new course . . . and we’ll see how Jesus does this for us, too!

Gathering Song: *Fill My Heart*

Welcome: -Pastor David

Holy Communion

Kid’s Church

Worship Set: Sanctify

Holy Spirit

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Good, Good Father

Worship Prayer - Andrew

Kids invited to Kids’ Church

Prayers for Our Church (HCI) and Country - Andrew

[No sermon bumper!]

Message: -Pastor David

PP#1: The Holy Spirit in Everyday Life

Breakfast with Jesus

“Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’” -John 21:12

The Holy Spirit in Everyday Life: Breakfast with Jesus. John 21:12 “Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’”

PP#2: *Image of the HCI proposal, used last week.*

Last Sunday, after worship, we held an all-church conference to vote on our discerning of God's leading on a proposal for us to spend a different kind of year, not doing what we usually do, letting go of some things, and prioritize the finding ways of reconnecting with God and rejuvenating our spiritual passion. It was a proposal of a biblical Year of Jubilee for our church.

We had a high attendance at the meeting, 78 voters, and the vote was an overwhelming passing of the recommendation, 87% in favor. That's a high vote, even among HCI churches.

I believe that this vote confirmed that this plan of Jubilee for our church is God's will. After a season of discernment and prayer, deep discussion, and wrestling with this together, we can be confident that the Holy Spirit led this. Therefore, we boldly go into the future knowing that God will be leading us. His Holy Spirit is our guide and our power.

Now, I know this was not a unanimous vote. Some of us had reservations. And that's OK. Because I believe we all have reservations. I've spoken with some of you who voted against it, and I sense that you have real concerns, and some were worried about parts left unaddressed. I believe, however, that we were all earnestly seeking God's leading, and that we all want to follow God's will. I want to reassure you all that although I'm certain we will make some mistakes, we pledge to go forward only while continuing to seek God's leading. And for that, we need your prayers to continue. Please, church, keep praying, especially in these initial weeks as we try to find our traction.

PP#3: *Image of Red Rock camp from this year, from somewhere!*

Well, as soon as the meeting was over, a bunch of us scarfed down some pizza, and headed out to Koronis Ministries by Paynesville for week at Red Rock Camp Meeting. This year we sent 31 campers from our church. As we were driving home yesterday, I asked my van-ful, what their highs and lows were about camp. Max Thompson said that a high was his baptism, as he was baptized at camp on Wednesday! Ian Bautch said his high was the relationships he made while at camp. Louis said that his low was leaving camp. And Ian said, when I asked him how we could improve camp, said, "Make it longer."

Well, next year it will be longer, a day longer. It will go from Sunday to Sunday, as we celebrate Red Rock's 150th anniversary! And we want everyone to come for the weekend. So, make plans for the weekend before the 4th of July, to stop in at camp for the 150th. Saturday, Sunday, whatever you can. There are all kinds of special events being planned. It'll be awesome!

But this week, first and foremost, is a week to *not* do what we usually do, but to intentionally reconnect with God, to rejuvenate our spiritual passion. It was a time to feed our deepest longings, and core identity. It is a time to come alive again! We realign with the Spirit of God in our hearts, and that changes our future, and unleashes new possibilities. We come back different. And we are able to construct differently what we are to do. We bring the Holy Spirit back into our daily lives.

It's the same principle at work. Stop doing what you've been doing. Come aside to meet Jesus. His Spirit awakens us to new life, and we are able to envision a different future.

This is the biblical model, God's plan for us to stay grounded and connected. Pause. Stop the busyness. Get re-centered on what is life-giving. Reconnect with the Holy Spirit already within you.

Daily - with daily devotions. Weekly, with Sabbath and attending worship. Monthly, or bimonthly, with a small group. Seasonally, with Advent - preparing for Christmas, and Lent - preparing for Easter. And annually, with retreats, like camp, or Walk to Emmaus weekends, or marriage enrichment weekends. We sustain a daily walk with the Holy Spirit with this cadence of regular time away with Jesus. If you want a different life, a daily walk with the Holy Spirit, then this biblical model is your answer. You can "get Jesus" in one commitment, or a mountain-top experience. But the daily walk with the Holy Spirit is sustained by this cycle of time with Jesus.

PP#4: *Map of Israel clearly showing Jerusalem and Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee.*

This morning I want to look at one pivotal example of this in the Bible. Jesus had come, called the 12 to be His leaders, preached, taught, and did miraculous displays of power. Then, He was arrested, wrongly accused, and died on a cross. He was buried in a tomb. But then, three days later, He arose from the dead, and appeared to the disciples, on numerous occasions.

So, what did they do? How did this affect them? They were excited, for sure. They were amazed and overwhelmed, yes. But they really didn't know what to do.

You know, I've often thought about this. What would I have done? I just spent 3 years with Jesus, saw Him killed and buried. Then I saw Him alive again, resurrected from the dead. What would *you* do? There's a story in John 21 that gives us a glimpse into the disciples at this point.

Now, actually, Jesus had told them to hang out and wait for the Holy Spirit to come on them. So, what do they do while they wait?

Well, they leave Jerusalem, in the southern part of the country, for Jesus told them to go back up to Galilee to where they were from. So, they go back up to Capernaum, a fishing village on the lake called the Sea of Galilee or Sea of Tiberias.

PP#5: John 21 (CEB)

1 Later, Jesus Himself appeared again to His disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how it happened: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus [or "The Twin"]), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons [James and John], and two other disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter told them, "I'm going fishing."

They said, "We'll go with you." They set out in a boat, but throughout the night they caught nothing.

John 21. "Later, Jesus Himself appeared again to His disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how it happened: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus [or "The Twin"]), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons [James and John], and two other disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter told them, 'I'm going fishing.'"

There it is. This is what they did. They are back in their home town, and remember, Peter, James, and John were fishermen. They had earned their living fishing on the Sea of Galilee. When they left to go follow Jesus, evidently others kept up the business.

So, the resurrected Jesus had told them He would see them back up in Galilee, and they were to go there and wait. So, they're back home again. They've had the meals with all their family members: lunch with mom and dad, supper with brother and family. Cake with aunt Deborah. They've gone to the coffee shop, pizza with all their friends. They've told everyone all the stories of Jesus' death and resurrection. Now what. I mean, we're talking a town of 1,000 people. Not much to do.

So, Peter checks in with his partners: "So, how's the fishing?" James and John to talk to dad, "Who do you have fishing with you these days, Dad?" I'm sure it wasn't more than a couple of days before Peter makes his announcement. "I'm going fishing!" My partners, you know, they've been struggling a bit. I can show them a thing or two. They didn't call me Simon the Fish Whisperer for nothing!" James and John pipe up. "Dad needs some help. Those new guys, they just don't know how to fish! I mean, young guys think they know everything. You just can't teach them anything. They don't listen. We need to show them a thing or two."

Verse 3, "Simon Peter told them, 'I'm going fishing.' The others, "They said, 'We'll go with you.' They set out in a boat, but throughout the night they caught nothing.

So much for showing the young guys a thing or two. Peter's partners tell him maybe his special techniques might work better in the Dead Sea!

But their tenacious. They fish through the night. Actually, that was common practice. They fished by dropping weighted nets down, so when the fish settle at the bottom for the night, it can make for good fishing. But not this time. Nothing. Maybe they lost the touch! Frustrating.

PP#6: John 21 (CEB)

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn't realize it was Jesus.

5 Jesus called to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?"

They answered Him, "No."

Verse 4, "Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn't realize it was Jesus. [So, He did appear to them.] Jesus called to them, 'Children [the word here can mean, "my dear friends"]', have you caught anything to eat?' They answered Him, 'No.'"

At this point I imagine came the excuses: "Well, you know, the wind wasn't right for fishing, really. Clear skies can scare the fish to deeper waters. I think they're all over by Bethsaida."

PP#7: John 21 (CEB)

6 He said, "Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."

So they did, and there were so many fish that they couldn't haul in the net. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for he was naked) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they weren't far from shore, only about one hundred yards.

But the stranger on the shore offers them advice. Verse 6. "He said, 'Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.'"

Now, this probably brought back some memories for them. When they first met Jesus, this is what He said to them. They were having a very similar experience. All night fishing. No fish. Stranger says, "Try the other side of the boat." They finally had done it. And, bam! Tons of fish. So, I imagine, when they heard this, they all looked at each other with a telling look. I bet they didn't even say anything. They simply turned to the other side and dropped their nets.

Going on in verse 6, "So they did, and there were so many fish that they couldn't haul in the net."

And this is exactly what happened last time! God is doing something again. "Wait...Jesus told us to wait for Him up here, and that He would meet up with them. This is exactly what happened three years ago when Jesus showed up the first time. Wait a minute...I wonder...could it be...?"

Verse 7, "Then the disciple whom Jesus loved [that is, John, who was Jesus' best friend], said to Peter, 'It's the Lord!' [John figures it out, but Peter acts.] When Simon Peter heard it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for he was naked) and jumped into the water." Fishing in your underwear...you know, usually what happens on the lake, stays on the lake, except when Jesus shows up! Ladies, let me just tell you, the Bible gives you an insight into men, and it proves why you are right when you refuse to go on those fishing trips with your husbands! Well, I'm sure it was hard to throw a net in those cumbersome robes men wore in those days. Anyway, he grabs his britches and jumps in the water to get to Jesus. Verse 8, "The other disciples followed in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they weren't far from shore, only about one hundred yards."

Thanks, Peter, thanks for all the help here. Heaven nets, lots of fish. Thanks for the help!

PP#8: John 21 (CEB)

9 When they landed, they saw a fire there, with fish on it, and some bread. 10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you’ve just caught.” 11 Simon Peter got up and pulled the net to shore. It was full of large fish, one hundred fifty-three of them. Yet the net hadn’t torn, even with so many fish. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples could bring themselves to ask Him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

Verse 9, “When they landed, they saw a fire there, with fish on it, and some bread. [Jesus was cooking!] 10 Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish that you’ve just caught.’ [Peter finally realizes he needs to be helpful.] 11 Simon Peter got up and pulled the net to shore. It was full of large fish, one hundred fifty-three of them. Yet the net hadn’t torn, even with so many fish. [It should have.] 12 Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ None of the disciples could bring themselves to ask Him, ‘Who are you?’ They knew it was the Lord. [Evidently, Jesus didn’t look quite the same as before. But they knew it was He by His presence, if not by His appearance.] 13 Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. [Again, this felt very familiar!] 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.” Easter evening, the next Sunday when Jesus talked to Doubting Thomas, and now here up in Galilee. They will go back down to Jerusalem, where Jesus then ascends back to heaven.

PP#9: Breakfast with Jesus

1. Take a break: Stop the work you are trying so hard to do, and let Jesus feed you.

So, here’s that biblical principle of living rich lives. Take a break! The disciples were busy, and doing good things, too. But they needed a break. Jesus comes to them and invites to feed them.

That hunger deep inside, that longing, that emptiness, that wanting of something more. That’s the hunger Jesus offers to feed. For the disciples, He offered them fish and bread. But He was showing them a physical example of a spiritual truth: Jesus feeds them.

Too often, you and I, we live on spiritual fast food. We get a bite here and there, while on the fly, busy doing good things. But Jesus wants to feed us, not just get us by in the moment. We need that full breakfast, that requires time, especially after the long night of fishing. Do you want to live your daily life by the Holy Spirit? Spend time with Jesus!

Klaus Issler has a book, “Wasting time with God.” We need to stop doing good things, and do nothing with God. In our busy mind set, it seems like *wasting time*. But he puts it right out there. Yes! We need to waste time with God! Do it! You must!

PP#10: Breakfast with Jesus

1. Take a break: Stop the work you are trying so hard to do, and let Jesus feed you.
2. Jesus feeds us by filling us with the Holy Spirit

Jesus feeds us, not with fish, but with the Holy Spirit. God sends the Holy Spirit to those who come away with Him. This past week, at camp, we learned that when we choose Jesus, we are given the Holy Spirit. But we also learned that the Holy Spirit is not in charge of us unless we invite Him to. He may be present, but He must be invited to take control. Walking daily with the Holy Spirit comes from time given to let the Holy Spirit take the driver’s seat.

PP#11: John 21 (CEB)

15 When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

Simon replied, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

And what is interesting is that at this breakfast, Jesus deals with Peter’s guilt. Peter had denied Jesus at His arrest three times, even though Peter said he never would. And so three times Jesus prompts Peter to declare his love for Him. Verse 15, “When they finished eating, Jesus [turns to Peter, looked him in the eye, and] asked Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ Simon replied, ‘Yes, Lord, you know I love you.’”

And, having gotten his relationship restored, back to where it needed to be, Jesus then commissions him to go feed Jesus’ sheep. Three times. That forgiveness, that restoration, that identifying of mission and purpose, came from the time they spent having breakfast together.

PP#12: Breakfast with Jesus

1. Take a break: Stop the work you are trying so hard to do, and let Jesus feed you.
2. Jesus feeds us by filling us with the Holy Spirit
3. “Wasting time with Jesus” is preparation for new living

Now, Peter and the others, can live into the life God has planned for them, led daily by the Holy Spirit. God has a mission for you, a life purpose. Time with Jesus brings clarity and calling into that mission.

If you long for more, for a different future, for a release from your past, for what you were made for, then feed that deep, God-created hunger, with time wasted with Jesus. You have the Holy Spirit. He has taken up residence in you. But if you want Him to lead your daily life, then you need to waste time with Jesus. He will feed you with the Holy Spirit to change you from the inside out, and lead you into a new future, a plan that God made you for.

We have a meal this morning, that Jesus has prepared. We can stop right now, and eat with Jesus. He has bread, and juice, prepared for you. He calls you to come, and eat with Him.

Holy Communion Song - Andrew

Kids bring in the bread

Holy Communion

Prayers - Pastor David

Holy Communion - “Breakfast with Jesus” “Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them.”

Words of Institution - Dan Hair

Receiving the Elements

Offering

Holy Communion Song: *O the Deep, Dep Love of Jesus* - Sanctify

Closing Song: Build Your Kingdom Here - Sanctify**Benediction: Pastor David**

Fourth of July Parade