

### **Week 36: Catechism and Easter Stories**

- Jesus Eats Breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias – John 21:1-14
- Jesus Restores Peter – John 21:15-25
- The Baptism of Our Lord – Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17
- The Great Commission to Baptize and Teach the Nations – Matthew 28:16-20
- St. Mark Records the Command to Preach the Gospel – Mark 16:9-20



*Jesus Eats Breakfast by the Sea of Tiberius*

*John 21:1-14*

After His resurrection, how many times did Jesus appear to the disciples?

*This was the third time.*

Which disciples were present?

*Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael of Cana, James and John (the sons of Zebedee), and two others.*

Why is Cana mentioned? (See John 2:1-11.)

*To remind us of the first sign in John's Gospel.*

Who might the other two disciples be? (See John 1:40, 45.)

*Andrew who was Peter's brother, and Philip who was associated with Nathanael.*

What did Peter decide to do?

*Go fishing.*

What time of day were they fishing?

*At night.*

Were they successful fishermen?

*No, that night they caught nothing.*

Who appeared on shore?

*Jesus.*

What time of day was it? (See also John 20:1.)

*Daybreak.*

Did the disciples recognize Jesus?

*No.*

What did Jesus call them?

*Children.*

Why is this significant? (See John 4:49 and 16:21.)

*Through the resurrection of Jesus, we are raised up from our death to be His children.*

What did Jesus tell them to do?

*Throw their net on the right side of the boat, and they would find some fish.*

Why the right side? (See Matthew 25:33.)

*The faithful are caught in the net of the Gospel and found on the right hand with Christ in the judgment.*

What do boats symbolize?

*The Church.*

What does casting out a net symbolize?

*The proclaiming of God's Word.*

Of what should the fish remind us?

*The believers who are caught in Holy Baptism and brought into the boat of the Church.*

Why is it stressed that they could not haul it in?

*It was not their work but the Word of God that accomplished the catching of the fish.*

Who recognized Jesus?

*The disciple whom Jesus loved.*

Why?

*John bore witness to the risen Lord that we may believe.*

What did Peter do before jumping into the water?

*He put on his outer garment.*

Why did he do this? (See 2 Corinthians 5:2-4.)

*We need to be clothed with the garments of Baptism so that our mortality might be swallowed up by life.*

What miracles should we think of when we hear that there was fish and bread? (See Luke 5:1-6 and John 6:1-15.)

*At the beginning of His ministry, our Lord called the disciples to follow Him after He provided them a great catch of fish. At the feeding of the 5000, our Lord gave bread and fish to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the people.*

How many fish did they catch?

*153.*

Why was the net not torn?

*It was the net of the Gospel.*

What did Jesus offer them?

*Breakfast.*

Of what should we think?

*The Lord's Supper.*

***Meditation:***

This third appearance of Jesus is an illustration of how the Church exists. This story might well be a sermon on “blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” The disciples had caught nothing in the night even though that was the preferred time to fish. Instead, they caught the fish in the broad daylight. This is what would happen as they proclaimed the Gospel about Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. As they proclaimed that Gospel in the sea of this world, an enormous catch of fish would be brought into the boat of the Church. The right side of the boat signifies those who will live by faith in that Gospel. The disciples caught nothing on their own. Only at the Word of Christ was the net filled so that they could not haul it in. It is not the preacher who draws the fish into the boat, but the Word of Christ in the Gospel that is the power of salvation to everyone who believes. As Jesus fed His disciples at dawn—the time of the resurrection—so the risen Lord feeds His Church upon His own flesh and blood that we might remain in the true faith.



What name did Jesus use to address Peter?

*Son of Jonah.*

What should this tell us?

*Like Jonah, Peter needed to repent and believe in the forgiveness of sins before he preached it.*

In verse 15, it must be noted that Jesus asked a question about the highest form of love (*agape*), such as Christ's love in sacrificing Himself at the cross. Peter's answer only spoke about brotherly love (*philos*). Why is that important?

*Jesus asked if Peter had a love that was greater than his love for himself, such as the love of the Father for the world, revealed in John 3:16. Peter acknowledged that he had only an affectionate love for Jesus.*

Why is this difference noted? (See John 13:37.)

*Peter had claimed that he would lay down his life for Jesus.*

What was the first word Jesus gave to Peter?

*Feed My lambs.*

How did the question change in verse 16? (The words for "love" remain the same.)

*Jesus did not ask Peter to compare himself to the other disciples as He had the first time.*

What word did Jesus then speak to Peter?

*Tend My sheep.*

In English the third question seems to be the same, but Jesus was now asking about *philos* (brotherly love). Why?

*Peter was now confessing that only Jesus could have the love through which we are saved.*

What word did Jesus then give to Peter?

*Feed My sheep.*

Why did Jesus ask this question three times?

*Peter had denied Him three times.*

Though Peter was grieved at Jesus' persistent question regarding love, what comfort do we see in Jesus' three-fold command to "feed and tend My sheep"?

*Jesus had forgiven Peter for his three-fold denial, and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is the only thing that makes a man "worthy" to hold the Office of the Holy Ministry.*

What was Jesus telling Peter in verse 18?

*He was foretelling Peter's death.*

Why did He end verse 19 with the words "Follow Me"?

*Peter was called to follow Jesus in the way of the cross.*

Why did Peter ask about John?

*Peter wondered if John would receive better treatment.*

Why did John include this bit of information?

*As a signature that he was the writer of this Gospel.*

What interesting thing did John record in verse 25?

*Not everything about Jesus was written down; even the world itself could not contain the books that could be written about Jesus.*

***Meditation:***

Jesus restored Peter, the fallen sheep, and called him to be one of His shepherds. Peter's arrogant pride was crushed as he confessed that Christ alone is capable of sacrificial, selfless love. The shifting words of Jesus' charge indicate that Peter would feed both sheep and lambs upon the Word-made-flesh in the waters of Holy Baptism, the preaching of the Gospel, and the administration of the body and blood of Christ. As Peter followed Christ in the preaching of the Gospel, he would also follow Christ into a death similar to our Lord's.



***The Baptism of Our Lord***

***Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17***  
***The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (Year II, Week 18)***

Who were the parents of John the Baptizer? (See Luke 1:57-66.)  
*Zachariah and Elizabeth.*

Where was John preaching?  
*In the wilderness of Judea.*

What was John preaching?  
*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Who else preached this message? (See Matthew 4:17.)  
*Jesus.*

Which prophet preached about John?  
*Isaiah.*

What does Isaiah 40:1 tell us that God had desired for His people?  
*Comfort.*

What would be revealed in the days of John? (See Isaiah 40:5.)  
*The glory of the LORD.*

What else do you learn in Isaiah 40:6-11 about the preaching of repentance?  
*All flesh is like grass, but the Word of the LORD endures forever. To men such as this a faithful Shepherd would come to gather His sheep.*

How did John dress?  
*He wore clothes of camel's hair and a leather belt.*

Who else dressed this way? (See 2 Kings 1:8.)  
*Elijah.*

What did John eat? (See Leviticus 11:20-23 for information about locusts as a "clean" food.)  
*Locusts and wild honey.*

Who was listening to the preaching of John?  
*People from Jerusalem, Judea, and the region around the Jordan.*

What did they do and what did John do for them?  
*They confessed their sins and John baptized them.*

What was the significance of the Jordan? (See Joshua 3 and 2 Kings 5.)  
*Salvation had been worked for Jews and Gentiles at these waters just as Baptism would become the saving water for all men.*

Where had Jesus been?  
*Galilee.*

What important events had happened at the Jordan in the Old Testament? (See Joshua 3 and 2 Kings 5.)

*Entering the promised land with Joshua, and Elisha healing the leprosy of Naaman.*

Why would John think he needed to be baptized by Jesus?

*He needed to repent and be washed clean by Jesus.*

Why was it fitting that John should baptize Jesus?

*To fulfill all righteousness.*

What righteousness is spoken about here?

*The righteousness of Christ which is imputed to us in Holy Baptism.*

How do you fulfill all righteousness?

*By faith in Christ.*

What three signs were connected with Jesus' baptism?

*1) Heaven was opened. 2) The Spirit of God descended like a dove and lighted on Jesus. 3) The voice came from heaven.*

What do these signs teach us?

*1) Heaven is opened for us in Baptism. 2) We receive the Spirit of God through Baptism. 3) We are declared to be sons of God with whom the Father is pleased.*

Which members of the Trinity are present at the Baptism?

*The Father was present as the voice from heaven; the Son stood in the Jordan; the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove.*

Who was the son loved by God in the Old Testament? (See 2 Samuel 12:24-25.)

*Solomon.*

***Meditation:***

John questioned why the Holy One of Israel would come to be baptized with a baptism of repentance. Yet, Jesus said it was necessary to fill up the righteousness which was to be poured out upon us in the waters of Holy Baptism. Here Jesus appointed the waters of Holy Baptism to be the place where His righteousness is to be exchanged with our sinfulness. In Baptism, heaven is opened for us, the Holy Spirit descends upon us, and we are proclaimed the beloved sons of God. For the sake of Christ and His righteousness, the Father in heaven is well pleased with us.

Who went to Galilee?

*The eleven disciples.*

Why is this important for the institution of the Office of the Holy Ministry?

*Jesus set these eleven males apart to be preachers of the Gospel. Although they were sinful and doubted, and although the women were the first witnesses to the resurrection, Jesus appointed these men as His preachers.*

Why did they go to Galilee? (See Matthew 26:32.)

*That is where Jesus told them He would be.*

What odd thing is revealed in verse 17?

*Some of the disciples still doubted.*

What authority was Jesus speaking about? (See Matthew 9:5-6.)

*The authority on earth to forgive sins.*

What were the apostles to make?

*They were to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching.*

What is a disciple?

*A believer or catechumen of Jesus.*

Who were to be made disciples?

*All nations.*

Is this term inclusive or exclusive of age groups or nationalities or any other distinctions?

*Inclusive: it means all nations regardless of age, color, or nationality.*

What does "baptize" mean?

*Wash with water.*

What word of God is to be used at a Baptism?

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Who is commanded to baptize the nations?

*The Eleven and all those who hold the Office of the Holy Ministry.*

The term in verse 20 translated as "observe" (NKJV) or "obey" (NIV) actually means to "hold fast." The term translated as "all things that I have commanded" simply means everything that Jesus had taught them in His preaching. Why is this important for a clear understanding of verse 20?

*The Church is to hold on to all the teachings of Jesus and catechize all nations in all these teachings.*

On the basis of this text, how is Jesus with His Church and His ministers?

*Through Baptism and the preaching of the forgiveness of sins, Jesus continues to be with His Church.*

What is the end of the age?

*When Christ comes again on Judgment Day.*

***Meditation:***

In this text Jesus instituted the preaching office for the Church. He sets aside males as the holders of this office; they are to proclaim all the words He preached to them. Through baptizing and catechizing people of every nation, they make disciples, that is, believers in Jesus. Jesus gives to this Office of the Holy Ministry the authority to forgive sins; this authority was His to bestow because He was the One who died and rose again for the salvation of all men. Through the office of preaching, Christ wants this forgiveness of sins to be proclaimed freely to all nations. Through the office of preaching the Gospel, Christ continues to be present with His Church on earth.

To whom did Jesus appear first after the resurrection?

*Mary Magdalene.*

What do we learn about Mary Magdalene?

*Jesus had cast seven demons out of her.*

What did Mary Magdalene do after she saw Jesus?

*She went and told the disciples.*

What was their reaction?

*They did not believe.*

What was the second appearance?

*Jesus appeared to two of them as they walked and went into the country.*

What was the reaction of the others to the report of the two?

*They did not believe them either.*

What is the third appearance recorded by Mark?

*Christ appeared to the Eleven as they were eating.*

Why did Jesus rebuke them?

*For their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen the risen Lord.*

Why did Jesus choose these eleven males who had not believed the eyewitnesses?

*He chose them by grace and called them to preach the same Word because faith comes by hearing, not seeing. "He chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty" (1 Corinthians 1:27).*

What did Jesus tell this same group of eleven to do?

*Preach the Gospel to every creature.*

How important is preaching for creating faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? (See Romans 10:17.)

*Faith comes by hearing the preaching of the Gospel.*

What promise did Jesus attach to Baptism?

*He who believes and is baptized will be saved.*

What is the other judgment that is associated with Baptism?

*Those who do not believe this Gospel will be condemned.*

What signs did Jesus promise the Eleven in order to confirm the Word they preached?

*They would cast out demons, speak with new tongues, take up serpents, drink deadly things without being harmed, and lay hands on the sick so that they would recover.*

What do these signs teach about power of Baptism and the Gospel?

*Baptism "works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe." These signs indicate the Gospel's power over Satan and all his demonic forces. The Gospel is a "new tongue" or language of forgiveness and life that restores the creation and brings health and healing from every poison of false doctrine and corruption that has afflicted the creation since the fall of man into sin.*

When did these signs begin to take place?

*In the Book of Acts and the preaching of the apostles. These "signs" of the power of Baptism find their fulfillment on the Last Day in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.*

What does the resurrection of our Lord mean for those who have been baptized into Him?

*They too will be raised up.*

Who received the Lord Jesus into heaven?

*God the Father.*

What does the ascension of our Lord mean for the ministry of the Church?

*Christ, the victor over sin, Satan, and death, reigns over all things for the sake of His Church and extends His kingdom of faith throughout the world by the apostolic ministry of preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments.*

What does the ascension of our Lord mean for every baptized Christian?

*We too will ascend to the right hand of the Father.*

***Meditation:***

The Eleven were the slowest to believe, even though they had heard the preaching of Jesus throughout His ministry. Though they had been the slowest to believe, it was these same Eleven who were chosen to preach the Word. They were given the treasure of the Gospel in the earthen vessels of their weak bodies, that the power of their preaching might be of God and not from themselves (2 Corinthians 4:5-7). Jesus established the Office of the Apostolic Ministry for the sake of faith. Through the preaching of these men, sinners would come to faith in Christ and be saved. While all believers confess the faith and talk to others about what Jesus has done, especially in their various callings, the Office of the Holy Ministry has the unique command and promise of the Lord to proclaim Christ's work publicly "in the stead and by the command of Christ" to the Church and the world. This office is the gift of Christ to His Church at His ascension, that sinners might know Him and the victory of His cross and resurrection, and that His Church and all her members might be fully grounded in the apostolic and prophetic Scriptures. (See Ephesians 4:7-11.)