

Jn21:1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:

21:2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

21:3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

21:4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

21:5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."

21:6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

21:7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

21:8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

21:9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.

21:10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

21:11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

21:12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"-knowing that it was the Lord.

21:13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

21:14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

21:15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

21:16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

21:18 "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked

where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."

21:19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

[From today's sermon]

This passage describes a pastoral scene by the lake, filled with the Lord's love for His disciples, accompanied by a miraculous event that moved them deeply.

It is a reenactment of Jesus' interaction and words to Peter and the others in Luke 5.

At that time, Jesus told Peter and the others, who were struggling with a poor catch, "Go out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Peter replied, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing. But because you say so, we will let down the nets." When they obeyed the Lord's words,

"And when they did so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break." Peter, standing before the One who had brought about something he never thought possible, was ashamed of his doubt and said, "Simon, son of John, do not call me Simon, for I am a man who is a sinner." But the Lord said to him, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will catch men." "So they pulled their boats up on the shore, left everything, and followed Jesus."

Once again, we are taught the lesson of "leaving everything behind and following Jesus." There is no longer any need to fear. There is no need to weep helplessly, to lament, or to despair. Jesus is the One who reigns over all. Blessed are those who are led by Him. We pray that we may also be used as guides for others to follow the Lord.

Good morning, everyone.

We are continuing to read about the events after Jesus' resurrection.

Standing on the shore of the nature-filled Sea of Galilee, Jesus watched the disciples closely, spoke to them, performed miracles, prepared food, and reminded them of the moving events when they were first called to be His disciples. Let us read together the moving passage where He led them to follow Him and gave them their mission.

The setting is the Sea of Galilee, where many things happened. It began with the miracle of the catch of fish in Luke 5, followed by the storm being calmed and the Lord walking on the water.

That lake, filled with the Lord's teachings, is once again the stage for today's story.

21:1 After this, Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. It was the second time he revealed himself, and here is how it happened.

21:2

Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.

21:3

Simon Peter said to them, "I'm going fishing." They replied, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Had they ever fished since becoming disciples of Jesus? There are accounts of many people following Jesus and His disciples, welcoming them with joy, and even paying taxes with fish caught from the sea (Matthew 17).

Going out to fish again. I do not think this means that their faith had grown cold or that they had abandoned their discipleship and responsibility and were trying to return to being fishermen. However, they may have once again faced an economic necessity that led them to do so.

Their familiar night fishing. It was a fishing method that utilized the habits of living creatures, using fire to lure them and catch them. In Luke 5, they also went out fishing at night.

After struggling all night, there was no catch. What a futile effort, what a hollow feeling. This empty boat seems to reflect their hearts: Jesus was not there, they could not attract the crowd

as they had when Jesus was with them, and even though they tried to do their former work, their skills had grown rusty, and they felt lonely.

21:4 When morning came, Jesus was standing on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

When morning came, Jesus was standing on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was the Lord who was there, watching their struggles closely.

21:5 Jesus said to them, “Children, have you anything to eat?” They answered, “No.”

“Children, it seems you couldn't catch any fish,” said Jesus.

Children. What a warm greeting.

Children.

In this resurrection story, there are several instances where the disciples did not notice that the Lord was there. I think this happens often in our lives today as well. Blessed are those who believe without seeing. Even when we do not see Him, the Lord is watching over us.

Like a parent watching over their child from a distance without being noticed. Hiding behind an object, the child never notices, but the parent watches over them silently. Such things happen often, don't they? The child playing with all their heart. Eating with such appetite. Falling and crying. Being upset because things aren't going well. Being angry about something. The parent could reveal themselves and comfort them directly. However, sometimes it is necessary to let them stand on their own two feet, to recover or gain insight on their own. But He is watching quietly from a distance. Even though we don't notice it, the Lord is always with us. He may be standing right behind you right now.

“Children, you didn't catch any fish, did you?”

The Lord understands our feelings of sadness, frustration, and uselessness, and speaks gently to us.

21:6 Then Jesus said to them, “Cast your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast their net, and they were unable to pull it in because of the large number of fish.

21:7

One of the disciples whom Jesus loved 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 naked, and jumped into the sea.

Even though they had fished all night and caught nothing, and even though it was now dawn, whether they cast their nets on the right side or the left, it was no use. They had concluded that it was a lost day, and there were good reasons for their judgment. However, the Lord's words contradicted their judgment. When they obeyed the Lord's words, God's providence worked in their favor.

This was a repeat of Luke 5. That event was when they abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

5:1 Now when the crowd came to hear him, he stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and all the lake was with the sea full of fish.

5:2 and He saw two boats there. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

5:3 One of the boats was Simon's, and Jesus got into it and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then He sat down and taught the crowd from the boat.

5:4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Go out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

5:5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I'll let down the nets."

5:6 When they did so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

5:7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. When they came, they filled both boats so that they began to sink.

5:8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

5:9 For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish.

5:10

The same was true of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will catch men."

5:11

So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Oh, I had forgotten that. This is the One who can change the laws of nature, the One who overturns what humans have absolutely decided cannot be. The One who possesses the power

of the mighty God. The One who is completely incomparable to sinful me, pure, powerful, and kind. The One who nurtures and guides us. If this One is here, if this One will take care of us, guide us, and nurture us, then we want to abandon everything and be with this One. They wanted to know more about this One. They wanted to watch intently to see what He would do. So they left their nets and followed Him. From that day on, He never disappointed them. Their needs were met, and they were guided.

However, they forgot the excitement of that moment and were overwhelmed by a sense of despair, feeling that they had to walk the path of discipleship alone, relying only on their own strength.

But the Lord was with them, watching over them, speaking to them at the right time, performing miracles in their midst, and always bringing them joy. They praised the Lord with voices of gladness and were led on to the glorious task of becoming fishers of men, guiding people's lives to God and to eternal life.

21:8 But the other disciples remained in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards away.

21:9

When they climbed ashore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it, and some bread.

21:10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

21:11 Simon Peter went and dragged the net ashore, and it was full of large fish, 153 of them. Yet even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus had prepared food for his disciples. The Lord served them in this way. Did he ask them to catch fish for himself to eat?

21:14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

21:15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

21:16 He said to him again, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

21:17 Jesus said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said to Jesus, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

“Feed my sheep.” These are the words of the Lord, telling us to take care of those who live in this world. There are people who are in difficulty, trembling, afraid, and crying. Just as the Lord served us, we too must serve the Lord and our neighbors.

We must not overlook even unlucky words.

21:18 I tell you the truth. When you were young, you used to tie your own belt and go wherever you wanted. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will tie your belt and take you where you do not want to go.”

21:19 He said this to show the kind of death Peter would die, so that he might receive the glory of God. After saying this, he said to him, "Follow me."

To go where we want and do what we want is our desire, but the Lord did not live that way. Just as He desired the will of the Father in Gethsemane, we too desire to be followers of the Lord Jesus whom we honor. Not for anyone else, not for an organization, not for anyone else, but to follow the Lord Jesus and serve those in need whom He serves.

If we obey the Lord's words, I believe that our lives will be guided by miracles as great as those of Jesus. I give thanks to the Lord.

◇Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship.

Thank you for teaching us what the disciples of the Lord experienced in the past, how they came to walk with Jesus with overflowing joy, and how you encouraged the discouraged disciples and stirred up their faith in God. Thank you that the God who rules over all things in this world loves us, guides us, and has given us a special mission. Please guide us this week as well. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Please bless our families and our neighbors. Please use us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(From the NHK website) Jose Mujica, former president of Uruguay, who was known as "the poorest president in the world" for his simple lifestyle, passed away on the 13th. He was 89 years old.

Mujica was born into a poor family in 1935. Feeling the contradictions of poverty and inequality, he joined an anti-government guerrilla organization in his 20s and was imprisoned for more than 10 years under a military regime.

After Uruguay democratized, he served as a left-wing member of parliament in the 1990s and as president for five years from 2010.

During his presidency, he continued to live on a farm, and his modest lifestyle earned him the nickname “the poorest president in the world.” He was beloved by the people and his speeches sharply criticizing consumerism were translated into many languages and gained popularity in Japan as well.

In an interview with NHK two years ago, Mujica shared a message for the younger generation: “We are living in an uncertain transitional period filled with many contradictions. It is important to find a purpose in life. Young people should find something that they believe in.”

Mujica had been battling cancer in his later years and was reportedly receiving palliative care.

On the 13th, President Ortega announced Mujica's death on social media.