

Jesus Appears by the Sea of Galilee (3rd Sunday of Easter, Year C)

Acts 5:27-32—The Apostles before the Sanhedrin

1. Sanhedrin: same “council” of high priest and elders that condemned Jesus (5:27)
2. Silence: we “strictly charged you not to teach *in this name*” (5:28)
3. Apostles: we are “witnesses” (Greek *martys*) (5:32)

Psalm 30—You Brought me Up from the Netherworld

1. Sheol: “you have brought up my soul from Sheol” (30:1)

Rev 5:11-14—The Song in Heaven: “Worthy is the Lamb”

1. Heavenly Song: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain...” (5:12)

John 21:1-19—Jesus Appears by the Sea of Galilee

1. Simon Peter: “I am going fishing” (21:3)
 - a. No evidence Peter is ‘going back’ to his ‘old life’ (cf. Mark 16:7)
 - b. Failure: “they caught nothing” (21:3)
2. Risen Jesus Appears:
 - a. Question: “Children, have you any fish?” (21:5)
 - b. Advice: “Cast the net on *the right side* of the boat” (21:6)
 - c. Sign: “they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish” (21:6)
 - d. Charcoal Fire: Jesus waits by “charcoal fire” (Greek *anthrakia*) (cf. John 18:18)
 - e. 3rd Time: that Jesus was “revealed” to the disciples
3. Jesus’ Questions for Simon Peter:
 - a. Question 3x: “Do you love me?” (21:15, 16, 17)
 - b. Denials 3x: “I am not,” “I am not,” “he denied it” (21:17, 25, 27)
 - c. Exhortations 3x: “Shepherd (Greek *poimainō*) my sheep” (21:16)
4. Prophecy of Peter’s Death:
 - a. Old Age: “you will stretch out your hands...” (21:18)
 - b. Death: “by which he was to *glorify* God” (21:19)
 - c. Exhortation: “Follow me” (21:19)

Jerome: Simon Peter the son of John... pushed on to Rome in the second year of Claudius to over-throw Simon Magus, and held the sacerdotal chair there for twenty-five years until the last, that is the fourteenth, year of Nero. *At his hands he received the crown of martyrdom being nailed to the cross with his head towards the ground and his feet raised on high, asserting that he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as his Lord.* (Jerome, *Lives of Illustrious Men*, 1).

Living Tradition: The Primacy of Peter

John Chrysostom: And why, having passed by the others, does He speak with Peter on

these matters? *He was the chosen one of the Apostles, the mouth of the disciples, the leader of the band...* And at the same time to show him that he must now be of good cheer, since the denial was done away, *Jesus puts into his hands the chief authority among the brethren...* (John Chrysostom, *Homilies on the Gospel of John* 88:1)

John Chrysostom: “And when He had spoken this, He says, Follow Me.” (John 20:19) Here again He alludes to his tender carefulness, and to his [Peter’s] being very closely attached to Himself. And if any should say, How then did James receive the chair at Jerusalem? *I would make this reply, that He appointed Peter teacher, not of the chair, but of the world.* (John Chrysostom, *Homilies on the Gospel of John*, 88:1)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (3rd Sunday of Easter, Year C)

1. How are the apostles in the book of Acts after Pentecost *different* than the apostles in the Gospels before the Resurrection?

2. What is the significance of Jesus appearing to Peter next to a “charcoal fire”?

3. What is the significance of Peter’s being declared “shepherd” by Jesus in John 21?

For Further Study

1. Tim Gray. *Peter: Keys to Following Jesus* (San Francisco: Ignatius; Denver; Augustine Institute, 2016). A wonderful study of Peter’s role in Jesus’ public ministry and the early church.
2. Joel C. Elowsky, *John* (2 vols.; Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament IV; Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2006), 377-92.