

# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

April 14, 2013  
Third Sunday of Easter

## Gospel Jn 21:1-19

At that time, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to Simon Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." Jesus said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."

ST. MATTHEW



ST. MARK



### Spiritual Reflection:

Archbishop Fulton Sheen in his book *The Life of Christ* wrote: "The query was: 'Do you love Me with that truly supernatural love, the mark of a chief shepherd?'" Peter had once presumed on the greatness of His love, telling His Master the night of the Last Supper, that even though others would be offended and scandalized in Him, yet he would not deny. Peter was now addressed as Simon, son of John—Simon being his original name. Our Lord thus reminded Peter of his past as a natural man, but especially of his fall or denial. He had been living by nature rather than by grace. The title also had another significance; it must have reminded Peter of his glorious confession when Our Lord said to him, "Blessed are thou Simon, son of John," and made him the Rock on which He would build His Church," and a little further wrote: "Peter now no longer claimed any superiority of affection over the other followers of Our Lord, for the other six Apostles were standing about."

### Spiritual Questions:

1. How did failing make Peter a better leader?
2. Do you think there is some symbolism in regards to all of them being in Peter's boat?
3. Why did Peter not try to walk on water this time?
4. What did Peter learn about his love for God compared to others?
5. Peter hears the familiar words "Follow me." Is God calling you to the next level?

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