

May 29, 2022
La Jolla Christian Fellowship

THE GOSPEL

Believe: Ep. 6 - Grace

John 21:1-9

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1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

GRACE: Unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration and sanctification

Sermon Focus: Grace manifests itself in presence.

I am a most noteworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy, and He has covered me completely. I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous Presence. -*Christopher Columbus*

1. **Jesus manifested himself to the lost. Vs. 1** Afterward Jesus **appeared** again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.
 - Here again we see Christ's relentless pursuit of sinners.
 - **Manifest**¹: become known, to be plainly recognized, thoroughly understood.
 - What are you manifesting?
2. **Peter was manifesting failure, doubt, self loathing. Vs. 3** "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
 - a. Peter led others into obscurity.
 - b. Inability, Inadequacy, Incapability, Incapacity, Incompetence, Incompetency, Ineptitude, insufficiency, powerlessness
3. **The disciples had a problem of recognition Vs. 4** Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.
 - a. Recognition often has to do with focus.

¹ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g5319/kjv/tr/0-1/>

4. **Vs. 7** Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.
 - a. The one who knew he was loved was the first to recognize Jesus and the one who knew he was lost was the first to get to Jesus.

Practical Takeaways:

1. Where is your focus? It's hard not to manifest your focus.
2. Are you accepting and walking in God's grace?

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. After a major life failure, Peter went back to what he knew. How easy is it to do this?
2. The Greek word for manifest means to become known, to be plainly recognized, thoroughly understood. How does God manifest himself to us today?
3. The disciples did not recognize Jesus. What are some reasons we might not recognize Jesus?
4. John is known as the disciple that Jesus loved. He was also the first to recognize Jesus. Why do you think that was and what does it say to us?
5. Peter went from returning to his old life to being desperate to be with Jesus on the shore. What do you think he realized in that short span of time? What do you think went through his head and heart?