

Looking for the Light

a devotional from
ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

by Michelle Baker

Read:

John 21:1-14

Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish

21 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. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 13, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Reflect:

I have long been struck by the fact that neither others in the previous chapter nor the disciples here knew or recognized Jesus as he appeared to them after his resurrection. This says to me that even today we never know when we might encounter Jesus. I think a lot about the fact that I could see Jesus in everyone I meet.

About 5 years ago, I began to notice the same few faces when I passed under the bridge as I drove the same route twice a week to my volunteer job taking pictures at the SPCA. One young lady stood out because she looked about the same age as my daughters. One Thursday as I headed that way, I packed some bags of food, and, instead of passing them by again, I got out and handed them the food as I looked each one in the eye and spoke to him or her. Until this pandemic, I have spent time with them there nearly every Thursday afternoon since, often taking their pictures when they asked, since they learned that I always had my camera with me. They are always grateful and kind, even while often sad, cold, or scared. Many of them have shared remarkable stories of pain and loss with me, nearly every one has also spoken of their faith, and, almost always in the same words, said that they wish others to know that “we are still children of God”.

These experiences also bring to my mind another Bible passage that has always stayed with me:

Matthew 25:35-40:

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

I am very worried about these and others in this situation right now and very sad I cannot go visit with them right now. But the experiences that I have had while getting to know these folks, who have shared their stories with me and whom I have watched care for each other, have made me feel as if I had met Jesus in these moments, and my time with these friends and their enduring faith has enriched my life.

Ask:

Have you ever had an experience that you made you feel, then or perhaps later, that you had encountered Jesus in that moment?

Can we safely reach out as Jesus would in this time of COVID-19?

Pray:

Dear Lord,

Please hear our prayer for all of your children at this frightening and unsettling time, especially those who are ill, have lost a loved one, are alone or without a safe place to stay-at-home. Please help all of us know that you are with us now and always. Amen.





To send us your prayer requests, click on [this link](#) and our church staff and prayer group will add you to our weekly prayer list. You will have the option to specify your request as confidential.

www.scapc.org

Disclosure: The recipients of this message are associated with St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church (SCAPC), either by way of membership, visitation, expressed interest, or participation in SCAPC's programs. If you no longer wish to receive email from SCAPC, please click below to unsubscribe. This will exclude you from ALL church emails, including meeting notices.

St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church | 1545 State Street, New Orleans, LA 70118

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by events@scapc.org