



Daily Reflections

April 6, 2018

Scripture

John 21: 1-14

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.

Our Scripture Reflection

Change is difficult. One of the main reasons diets and smoking cessation efforts are so very difficult is because change is difficult. We find comfort in the familiar even if it is unhealthy. Such was the case for the disciples as they decided to go back to their former profession...fishing. And then the Risen Lord appeared to them. He would show them that after His resurrection fishing would be only for their food and no longer their work. Now, their work is fishing for members of the Kingdom of God.

Food for your Journey

This Easter morning, Betty and Wilson Carnes will join millions of [Washington] area Christians in celebrating the Resurrection, a central belief of their faith and the one testifying, they believe, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

But this year, the Fairfax County couple will be worshiping with new meaning because it is the [second] Easter since the Carneses' only son was struck down by liver cancer at age 41.

"We have a confirmation of what Easter is," said Betty Carnes, sitting in their living room, decked with family pictures. "It is a new beginning...."

The death in July of Wilson Woodrow Carnes, Jr., a gregarious man known as Woody to his friends, "will certainly put an emphasis for me on Easter, which I wouldn't have thought of otherwise," said his 74-old-father, a retired magazine editor. "It becomes more meaningful this year...."

The Carneses, who also have two daughters, learned of their son's illness in March 1998, when he called to tell them that doctors had found numerous cancer growths on his liver. They predicted he would live only a few weeks.

Woody Carnes, who was director of human resources for a large car dealership, was then living in Points of Rock, Maryland, with his wife, Nikki. They had wed in June 1996.

The Carneses have found their faith occasionally tested by their son's death. "It's spring, Easter and everything is coming to life again, and you can ask yourself which we have, 'Why us, Lord? Why Woody?'" said Betty Carnes, who is in her 70s.

Believing in the Resurrection, her husband added, "doesn't mean you don't mourn, you don't grieve. God doesn't relieve you of that burden."

But within hours of their youngest child's death, Betty Carnes recalled, the couple experienced something they treasure as an affirmation of Easter's underlying message.

Driving to their house from their son's home, they stopped to get something to drink "and the woman at the drive in window said, 'Oh look, there's a rainbow!'" Betty Carnes recalled.

"It was the most magnificent rainbow I ever saw in my life," she said. "It wasn't a quick rainbow. We traveled for miles. It was on both sides and at one point, it was terrific with magnificent colors, and we were going right into it."

Betty Carnes saw that her son's death "was just a new beginning for him. And that some day, in some form, we would be together," she said. "The rainbow was my assurance that would happen. It was so beautiful."

Easter, Wilson Carnes said, "reaffirms [that] life is not ended at the grave. Rather than the end, I see it as a bright, new beginning."

-Caryle Murphy, "For Survivors, Revival at Easter: Resurrection Becomes Personal After the Loss of a Loved One," The Washington Post, April 4, 1999, C1.

A Prayer from the Heart

God our Father,

by raising Christ your Son

you conquered the power of death

and opened for us the way to eternal life.

Let our celebration today

raise us up and renew our lives

by the Spirit that is within us.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. Amen.