

# Lost...

JOHN 21 : 1 ~ 19

MAY 5, 2019

The setting of today's Gospel is after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus and seven of the apostles are fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Think about that for a moment. That was the job they had before they met Jesus. They had already encountered the risen Christ. Jesus had already charged them saying, "Go out into the whole world and baptize everybody." But they didn't move. They were lost.

The world awaited the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and they were charged with spreading the word. They had been called to change the world. One would have thought that they would be excited to get started on this new ministry. They were not, however, "chomping at the bit" to get going. They were lost. Simon Peter said, "I am going fishing" and six other apostles joined him. Why did they do that? There must be some fear, uncertainty, and doubt at work. "How can we continue without Jesus? He was our leader. We are just common hill folk from Galilee. Nobody is going to listen to us. How can we preach to the world? We have trouble putting a sentence together." The disciples were lost.

We are all lost at times. One is lost when one suffers a loss, when you lose something. There were two sad baby funerals in Marty this week – four month old Angelia and five month old Kuan – relatives, friends and neighbors were there in sympathy and support. As I listened to so many express sadness for the loss of their child, I was reminded of the little girl whose baby brother had just died. She asked her mother where the baby had gone. "To be with

Jesus," replied the mother. A little later, talking with a friend, the mother said, "I am so grieved to have lost my baby." The little girl heard her, and, remembering what she had told her, asked, "Mother, is a thing lost when you know where it is?" "No, of course not." "Well, then, how can Baby be lost when he has gone to be with Jesus?" Her mother never forgot this. It was the truth.

A friend of mine loves to preach an Easter sermon in which he reminds the people of an important lesson. When all seems lost, just "wait three days." When faced with great difficulty, don't panic; don't despair, don't lose hope, just wait a few days. Perhaps with the dawn of a new day you will be given strength when today all you feel is weakness. Perhaps with a new day you will find resolution to what seems impossible today. Eventually the agony of today will succumb to inexorable passage of time. Tomorrow is always coming and with it will come new possibilities. Hang on to that great truth.

Keep the threat in perspective. Trust God and step out in faith. Never lose hope in what tomorrow will bring. Most of all, believe not only that Jesus was alive back then, but he lives today. The power of the risen Christ is still set free. We can connect with that power and be strengthened by it. Because he lives, we can face tomorrow and be unafraid. Our fears can be conquered. Our uncertainties and self-doubt can be handled. That is the great promise of our faith. No-one and Nothing is lost if it is in the Hands of God.