We Have Remembered the Crucifixion and Rejoiced in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. What Now?

Do we follow the human example of the disciples and go back to our normal day-to-day occupation?

John 21:1-3 [NIV] *"Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. **"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."***

Jesus had personally appeared to all of them, but as yet they were without direction or commission in their lives.

Are we like these disciples?

We accept the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ as a substitute for our own deserved death, and look forward to receiving the gift of eternal life.

If we consider Christ's death and resurrection is just an opportunity to join a Christian club [the local church] where we celebrate God's bright new society and look forward to full enjoyment of its benefits for ourselves in God's Kingdom, we are missing the very reason why we, like the disciples, have been called at this time.

We must not privatise the message of the resurrection. If it is good news for us, it is also good news for all humanity.

The disciples had to learn this and so do we.

John 21:4-14 [NIV] *"Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 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. 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. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. **Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."** None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead."*

What was Jesus doing?

In the Middle East a meal is always an important occasion. You belong to each other in a new way when you've eaten a meal together.

Jesus seems to have spent a fair amount of time eating with people of all different sorts during His ministry.

Matthew 22:1-2 [NIV] *"Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: **"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet** for his son."*

Those who heard Jesus knew exactly what He was referring to, the Messianic Banquet. The Jews believed that the Messiah would sit down at a table and the true people of Israel would sit and eat with Him to celebrate their time of redemption had come at last. [**Also read Revelation 19:7-9**]

John 21:15-17 [NIV] *"When they had finished eating, **Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me** more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, **"Feed my lambs."** Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, **"Take care of my sheep."** The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, **"Feed my sheep."***

Jesus was giving Peter and all the other disciples, which includes all of us, a new commission.

Peter was told there is work for him to do, you are to look after my sheep. Because I love you and I have redeemed you from death, I want you to work for Me.

There are other people that I love, and I want you to be my *"word-become flesh"*, my love for them, by sitting and listening to them, praying with them, crying with them, and celebrating with them.

How will we do this?

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, **to offer your bodies as living sacrifices,** holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship."*

By becoming like Jesus, willing to lay down our life for other people.

We all as Christ's disciples have to share the pain of the world with them if the world is to be healed through Jesus Christ in us.

God is calling disciples in every generation, to work under Jesus' direction to catch more fish than we ever thought possible, and still find that our *"nets"* will **not** break.

We are to learn from scratch how to feed sheep under Christ's direction.

Peter knew how to catch fish but feeding sheep was new to him.

Jesus is telling us as His disciples, to follow Him into the villages and towns, to tell all who are sad, suffering and confused that God loves them and longs for them to come to know Him and experience the love He has for them.

We don't just tell this good news in words but turn the Word [Jesus Christ in us] into flesh once more.

Tell people by silently sharing their grief, by speaking up for them when no-one else will.

Tell them, by giving up our life for them, that is our time and substance, so that when they know us they will also know Jesus Christ.

This should be our daily prayer:-

"Almighty Father, give me such faith in the healing power of Your risen Son Jesus Christ, that I may gladly and readily follow wherever He leads me. May I embrace for His sake whatever tasks He entrusts me with, so that Your sheep may be fed, and Your world healed. Amen."