

Look Who's Here

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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November 14, 2020

This year has been such a trying one for so many people, with so many devastating calamities happening one after the other. It is good to remember that the Risen Lord is always with us even in our sufferings and in times of need.

In John 21, two weeks had passed since Jesus first appeared to the disciples in the resurrection. Probably feeling disconsolate and deeply troubled about what lay ahead of them, Peter announced that he was going fishing; six other disciples tagged along. They stayed up all night and caught none. Suddenly, they saw a man on the shore, who they failed to recognize as Jesus; He called out to them and told them to cast their nets on the right side. When they did so, they couldn't pull the net back up because there were so many fish. That was when they realized that it was Jesus.

Look Who's Here:

1. *In the midst of trials, look who's here!*

- Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were thrown into blazing furnace for refusing to bow down before the image of the king. In the middle of the fiery flames, the king did not see three, but four people walking around, with the fourth looking like "son of the gods."
- In the midst of trials, rejoice! (1 Pt. 1:6-7)
- "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine" (Is. 43:1).
- "I will never forsake you or abandon you" (Heb. 13:5).

2. *When we are sorrowing, look who's here!*

- Jesus waited for two days from the time that he learned that Lazarus was seriously ill before setting off to visit him. When He arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been buried for four days. Later on, Martha & Mary met Jesus and expressed their grief. Jesus, likewise, grieved with them, then raised Lazarus from the grave (John 11:1-44).
- "Cast all your worries upon Him because He cares for you" (1 Pt 5:7).

3. *When you are sad, look who's here!*

- While at the gate of the town of Nain, Jesus and company chanced upon the funeral procession of an only son of a widow. Jesus' heart was filled with pity for the woman, and so raised the dead man back to life. (Luke 7:11-17)
- We were once dead because of sin. But Christ saved us and gave us new life. "Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom 6:11).

4. *When we are in the midst of the storm, look who's here!*

- Just like the disciples in Matthew 14 who failed to recognize Jesus walking on water in the middle of a storm, we sometimes fail to recognize Jesus in the middle our own storms.
- When we acknowledge the presence of God, He is able to speak peace into our souls.

5. *When we are stranded, look who is here!*

- Paul and Silas were caught, beaten severely, and thrown into jail for doing the work of God. About midnight, while praying and singing praises to God, a violent earthquake opened all prison doors and loosened all chains. (Acts 16:16-26)
- "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (2 Cor. 4:17).

6. *When we are old, look who's here*

- When we are alone, look who's here!
- John was sent to prison in Patmos (Rev 1:9) in AD 95 at the age of 91.
- We who suffer from the pain of loneliness can take comfort in the presence of Jesus, just like John in Patmos.

Many of us are like Peter who grow weary and tired of the Christian life and return to our old ways, seeking to satisfy the longings of our heart. But Jesus clearly declared that, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Lk. 9:62).

Conclusion: In the midst of trials, when we are sorrowing, in the middle of the storm, when we are stranded, or when we are old, Jesus is right beside us.

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