

I'm sure you've seen this: the movie after the movie, at the end of a film to reward the people, who sit all the way through the credits and closing music. The director's cut dropped in. Something more. That's John ch. 21. A little something more for the reader who just can't seem to get enough.

John 20 ended rather nicely -a footrace to the open tomb, Jesus' resurrection appearance to Mary Magdalene, then disciples, disciples with Thomas. Jesus shows them His wounds, breathes His Spirit into them, authorizes them to forgive sin in His stead, sends them on their way to do His forgiving work. Then we read, **Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

Roll the credits, cue the music. Great place to end the gospel. Then a whole chapter more. It seems odd at first, with all that could be done and said, great miracles, appearances that could be done, why breakfast? More on that later.

Peter, 6 disciples go fishing at dusk, fish all night, catch nothing. Sound familiar? Had happened at the start, Jesus said, **Follow me, I will make you fishers of men.**

But now, the net is busting with exactly 153 fish. There to greet them is Jesus, fixing breakfast, cooking on a charcoal fire. Fish and bread hearken the feeding of the thousands, His compassion to people. Last time we heard 'charcoal fire', Peter was warming his hands, denying he had anything to do with Jesus.

What's with the 153? Theologians, church fathers speculated the fish represented the catch of the resurrection, fullness of redeemed humanity; 153 specific people from every tribe, language, nation. We are fish, rescued from the depths of the Dead, the Deep, hauled into the boat, ark of the Church -includes you. Others speculate 153 a combination of symbolic numbers of significance that come up in Scripture. Others just a factual, historical sum. Regardless, Jesus works in precise, intentional ways.

The fishermen could not catch fish without Jesus. And they were pros! The Lord's work alone provides and saves those gathered into His Church. Thrice denying Peter asked three times do you love me. He knows what Jesus is doing, making His point of restoring Peter. And the charge for Peter, His pastors to feed His sheep and lambs. But what do we feed them, feed you? With Him, Word, Sacrament. There is no other food for His own.

A breakfast. To the disciples far out on the water in their boat, Jesus seemed nothing more than a distant figure on the shore. Stranger cooking

breakfast. Their eyes could not perceive him, nor can ours. Though very much present with us, Jesus remains hidden to our eyes, the cloud concealing His glory we won't see until the last day. Yet, as He did for them, He gives the signs of His presence, signs from His pastors to speak His forgiving Word. Give a supper He provides. We may not see, but we are not without the signs that mark Jesus' presence.

An ordinary breakfast. Jesus continues to provide for your ordinary, daily needs in the wake of His resurrection. You think Easter is over and you throw yourself back into your routines, schedules, outdoor work, work to catch-up on your to-do list, and acting, living as though the Resurrection makes no practical difference to your life. Like the disciples, you do not recognize how He is there, here, provides it all.

Notice how tenderly Jesus called them. **Children.** Why children? Children are dependent for everything. Children, born into a family –they didn't choose or earn; the name, inheritance –pure gifts. Children also trust their parents and look to them for all good things. How much more for your cause, dear child?

Children. We must give up all bragging rights on what good little boys and girls we've been. Apart from Jesus, His Word, you are not able to do or accomplish anything of significance or value.

All of your own works, efforts add up to nothing. He provides it all. You earned it, you have it, you do things -solely because He provides, prepares this ordinary life for you.

Like the disciples, that is what the Lord does in response to your doubts and fears, your denials and failures. He calls you to Himself. As often as you fail, fall short, as often as you think you've done something or you have something because of you. He catches you in His net by His preaching of repentance in His forgiveness of sins; day by day throughout your life. Exactly, precisely, intentionally what you specially need in your ordinary and extraordinary moments, like 153 fish for them then. A Father who perfectly knows what His child needs and provides.

Not just that, see how Jesus is known on the shores of the Sea of Tiberias and the shores of Kansas City. By His abundance, overwhelming gracious giving to sinners. Of yourself, you can't provide for yourself, have nothing to eat, do you? Nothing of your own will satisfy your hunger. He instruct me to feed you with what He alone provides. Dear child, come, eat, drink what Jesus prepares. Food for His sheep, lambs here; intentionally, precisely, taking care of all the specific details of your life. Jesus prepares, provides everything.