



Pastor Ken Studer

Sunday, April 22, 2007

Scripture Reading: John 21:1-19

TODAY'S THOUGHT: *: I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help him. I ended up by asking him to do his work through me.*

—Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), English missionary and founder of the China Inland Mission

Today's reading in John 21 is one of the most beautiful and touching scenes in the New Testament. Here Jesus meets with his disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. He has a fish breakfast with them, and then talks to them about mission and service.

But it is the FISH that attracts our attention today in this story, because the fish became a very popular symbol of Christianity, especially in the early church. It was, behind the cross itself, perhaps the most popular Christian symbol, and remains so today.

The word "fish" in the Greek language of the New Testament, is spelled ICHTHYS. Christians used the word as an acrostic in which each letter stood for a Greek word beginning with the same letter.

I	Jesus	=	Jesus
C	Hristos	=	Christ
H	THeou	=	of God
I	Yios	=	Son
S	Soter	=	Savior

When read as an acrostic, the Greek word for fish took on special meaning, having a very profound meaning for Christians: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. So when a Christian drew a picture of a fish in the sand, or dirt, or inscribed it on a wall in underground catacombs, the meaning was clear: Here was a Christian. Or, Christians have met here. It was perhaps the earliest creed of the church: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.

Prayer: O God, sometimes I know we make things complicated. The symbol of the fish reminds me that to profess Christ is to profess His deity and His saving work on the cross. Help me to hold firmly to that profession. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Activity Page for the week of April 1, 2007

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Deuteronomy 1-3

Monday: Deuteronomy 4-6

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 7-9

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 10-12

Thursday: Deuteronomy 13-16

Friday: Deuteronomy 17-19

Saturday: Deuteronomy 20-22



SOUNDS THE SAME!

Homonyms are words with the same spelling but different pronunciations and meanings, such as a "minute" (60 seconds) and "minute" (very small). Each sentence below has two blanks that you are to fill with the same word.

1. The strong _____ caused the flag to _____ around the flagpole.
2. The violinist replaced his violin and _____ before returning to the stage to take a _____.
3. The doctor _____ some gauze around her bleeding _____.
4. She got a _____ in her eye when she saw the _____ in her new dress.
5. A _____ broke out in the last _____ of the classroom.
6. You should not _____ someone in the _____ without water and food.
7. He _____ for days because he could not afford the scooter, a bright red _____.
8. Our Japanese host asked us not, for his _____, to drink all the _____ because he needed some for other guests.
9. The _____ violin player loved to fish, especially for _____.
10. In a herd of elk, you'll notice that _____ do not have antlers, while the dominant buck _____.

Answers: 1. wind, 2. bow, 3. wound, 4. tear, 5. row, 6. desert, 7. moped, 8. sake, 9. bass, 10. does