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| Psalm 118:19-29John 21:1-14 | To Really Know | Pinelands – 9am – 11/05/2025 |

Happy and Blessed Mother’s Day to all the Mothers in our midst.

There is something I have learnt in life…

 There is a big difference between…

**Knowing about** something

 And **Experiencing** something first hand.

***For Example…***

I know all about Liza becoming a mother…

 Being Pregnant, Giving Birth and being a Mother

 *(I mean I was there… I know)*

**BUT…** I was not Pregnant, I did not give birth,

 I am not a mother.

To personalise that even a little more…

 I remember people telling me about their experience of

Becoming and Being a Grandparent… I knew it…

BUT MAN…

 When I became a Grandparent…

 Nothing Prepares you for that and in so many ways…

 I cannot put it into words.

To **KNOW** about something is…

very different from **EXPERIENCING** that same thing

That is true with any experience…

I can tell you about my experiences in the African Bushveld…

Tracking Rhino and Elephant…

 The sense of danger.

 Sleeping under the stars in Big 5 country…

 The night sounds and smells.

 Following Cheetah on the hunt…

 The anticipation of the kill.

You will **KNOW ABOUT IT**…

***BUT…*** you have not **EXPERIENCED IT.**

***It is the same with…* FAITH… RESURRECTION.**

We can **KNOW it all…** ***OR…*** We can **EXPERIENCE it**

Jesus appears to the disciples…(*in John)*

 They talk to him on the shore… but **DO NOT** recognize him

 Will you note that this is the THIRD time…

 Jesus has appeared to the disciples…

 AND still they do not recognize him

You would think that by now… They would surely know…

the characteristics of their Lord *(mannerisms)*

 the Voice of Jesus

When one of them does recognize him…

 Peter dives in and swims to shore… afterwards…

 ‘They dared not ask Jesus, “Who are you?”…

 Because they **knew** it was the Lord.’

I wonder how often we…

 **DO NOT** recognize Jesus in our daily lives.

 *(****Know*** *all the facts, even go to Church)*

 **IGNORE** the call of God in our lives

 *(Professing our faith but not living it)*

 **MISS** the opportunity to serve and reach out

 (Failing to Recognise Jesus in others)

You have heard people say… ***‘There is a devil behind every bush…’***

 We get so caught up looking for devils we MISS JESUS

 Because Jesus is **IN** every bush.

Our FAITH is about…

BEING in relationship with Jesus…

 Not Just KNOWING about Him…

 BUT… EXPERIENCING Him

**BEING *in Relationship*** with Jesus **IS…**

 Becoming more and more sensitive to recognizing

 Jesus in our everyday…

Lives, Experiences,

 Interactions, Conversations,

 Decisions, Challenges.

**In John 14**… Phillip asks Jesus… ***“Lord, show us the Father”***

Jesus responds…

 ***“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father…***

 ***I am in the Father and the Father is in me.”***

Our relationship with Jesus,

 IS always based on EXPERIENCING Him

Responding to… Him

 Loving… Him

 Listening to… Him

 Serving… Him

 Communicating with… Him *(Prayer)*

 Learning about… Him

***NOTICE…*** Those are all **VERBS…** Doing Words / Action Words

 **NOT JUST…** Thinking and Knowing

 ***BUT…*** Living and Doing

God **NEVER FORCES** the issue of…

Experience, belief, allegiance, faith, love

Our Faith is **ALWAYS BASED** on…

on the ***freedom to choose and* EXPERIENCE**

That is why it is so important that we **CREATE** opportunities

So we can grow to know Jesus personally…

 Bible Readings (daily)

 Prayer (Communicating with)

 Small Groups (Regularly - Weekly)

 Ladles of love (Serving others)

**MAKE…** Jesus part of your everyday activity.

As **William Bulger** (Educator and Lawyer) wrote…

***“There is never a better measure of what a person is than***

***what they do when they are absolutely free to choose”***

It is the freedom of Choice that…

 makes Christianity GREAT.

 Has made great Christians GREAT

 Has caused the Survival of the Church over the ages

 Has ultimately brought you here today…

 We choose to respond - in worship

**Hear this…** Listen Carefully…

***GOD…***  **KNOWS US** and…

***GOD…*** Wants us to **EXPERIENCE HIM**

*Hear these verses of God’s knowledge of us…*

God keeps an eye on us all the time. Job 24:23

God knows everything we do; he sees every step we take. Job 31:4

God examines us and knows everything we do;

He understands all our thoughts.

God sees us when we are working or resting and

He knows all our actions. God is all around us. Ps 139

God asks… Do you not know that I am everywhere

 in heaven and on earth? Jer 23:24

God sees everything you do. Nothing is hidden from Him. Jer 16:17

Nothing can be hidden from God; everything in all creation

Is exposed and lies open before his eyes. Heb 4:13

**Jesus Knows what we are about…**

 What we are trying to do…even when we do not get it right

You will never PROVE the Resurrection…

***BUT…*** You have the Choice to EXPERIENCE

The Resurrected JESUS.

Let me conclude with this short parable…

A rabbi and his pupil were discussing God's Word:

Rabbi: Herschel, do you know the sacred scriptures?

Pupil: Yes, teacher, I have been studying them.

Rabbi: And, do you know the phrase, 'Thus have I heard?'

Pupil: Oh, yes, that is throughout the scriptures.

Rabbi: Herschel, what have you heard?

**SO I ASK YOU… “What have you heard today?”**

**Psalm 118:19-29**

Open to me the gates of the Temple;

 I will go in and give thanks to the Lord!

This is the gate of the Lord;

 only the righteous can come in.

I praise you, Lord, because you heard me,

 because you have given me victory.

The stone which the builders rejected as worthless

 turned out to be the most important of all.

This was done by the Lord;

 what a wonderful sight it is!

This is the day of the Lord's victory;

 let us be happy, let us celebrate!

Save us, Lord, save us!

 Give us success, O Lord!

May God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

 From the Temple of the Lord we bless you.

The Lord is God; he has been good to us.

With branches in your hands, start the festival

 and march around the altar.

You are my God, and I give you thanks;

 I will proclaim your greatness.

Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good,

 and his love is eternal.

**John 21:1-14 Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples**

After this, Jesus appeared once more to his disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how it happened. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael (the one from Cana in Galilee), the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples of Jesus were all together. Simon Peter said to the others, “I am going fishing.”

“We will come with you,” they told him. So they went out in a boat, but all that night they did not catch a thing. As the sun was rising, Jesus stood at the water's edge, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then he asked them, “Young men, haven't you caught anything?”

“Not a thing,” they answered.

He said to them, “Throw your net out on the right side of the boat, and you will catch some.” So they threw the net out and could not pull it back in, because they had caught so many fish.

The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken his clothes off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples came to shore in the boat, pulling the net full of fish. They were not very far from land, about a hundred yards away. When they stepped ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there with fish on it and some bread. Then Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.”

Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net ashore full of big fish, a hundred and fifty-three in all; even though there were so many, still the net did not tear. Jesus said to them, “Come and eat.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. So Jesus went over, took the bread, and gave it to them; he did the same with the fish.

This, then, was the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from death.