

Becoming Beautiful Breakfast on the beach

Beautiful, beautiful Jesus is beautiful

And Jesus makes beautiful things of my life

Carefully touching me, making my eyes to see

That Jesus makes beautiful things of my life

Does he ? How does he make beautiful things of my life ?

Do we feel it ? Do we know we are beautiful - deep inside how do we feel about ourselves ?

John 21 gives us the story of the breakfast on the beach

Context - Jesus has died and risen again, he has appeared to the disciples twice including Thomas and he has breathed his peace on them.

Peter "I'm going out to fish" reaction ?

The disciples "we will come with you" reaction ? Back to life as it was as they wait

Jesus stands on the shoreline and watches them - how long was he there just waiting just watching

Jesus takes the initiative, he calls to them, they are not seeking him at all

He seeks them out, he takes the lead in revelation in their own everyday situation

Where is he in our everyday ? Waiting watching calling

More than that. "Come and have breakfast"

Jesus has prepared a special time for his friends, he calls them closer, he has prepared food for these tired hungry men.

He plans and prepare special times for us. How might this look? When might it be ? How might he catch us by surprise? Jesus is intentional - Richards talk

Jesus has a very special purpose for this time and he specifically wants some time alone with Peter. Notice Peter's friends are still around and its in a place that very familiar to him, a safe place?

Peter has been full of activity - "I'm going to fish", he is the first to jump over the side of the boat and run to Jesus, he rushes back to drag the net full of fish from the boat.

According to Luke, Jesus has probably already revealed himself and had some time alone with Peter but there is still some work to be done to restore him after his denial

A 3 fold denial followed by a 3 fold call to love. By a charcoal fire !

Peter's denial is a problem to him, it is not a problem to Jesus but it is a problem to Peter. Peter needs to see himself as Jesus sees him and not with the hot shame of what he has done.

Peter's denial is not a problem to Jesus - Jesus sees past it

Peter's activity and drive ness is not a problem to Jesus - Jesus sees past it

Jesus sees past it to the beauty and potential of who Peter really is and can be A 3 fold denial followed by a 3 fold call to love. By a charcoal fire !

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First of all "Do you love me more than these?" These what ? Friends ? These feelings of shame ? Your own denial ?

Why 3 times - reflection of the 3 denials but more than that Peter needs to know deep inside himself that he does still love Jesus and that Jesus does definitely know this as well

Feed my lambs

Tend my sheep

Feed my sheep

Jesus is saying I know what you have done and whatever you have done I know you still love me and I trust you to be me to others

I am the Good shepherd and I want you to be a shepherd to others.

A call to us all

Jesus has seen the wounds of shame but he sees beyond them

He sees

His Fathers image in Peter

The beauty he has put in Peter

Who Peter can be

This is nothing Peter can change in himself - it is only what Jesus can bring him - Garys talk Jesus is bringing him to a place where Peter can stand again and stand in Jesus knowing he is loved and knowing he loves

Of course as Jesus talks to Peter Jesus still carries the wounds of his crucifixion, I guess ~Peter too will always carry the wound of the knowledge that he has denied Jesus. I don't believe the shame will sting him any more but the knowledge of it will still be in him. To me that says that our own brokenness and woundedness May always be with us but also that instead of being negative they can be a gift.

I wonder if Peter would have been able to tend and feed others if he had not been through this experience ?

We talk about our gifts as positive things but what about our gift of brokenness our own gift of woundedness

It can be a gift if we let Jesus into it, if we let him see it. If we let him see past it to the beauty of who he is making us. If we can begin to see the beauty of ourselves

It's a gift because brokenness breaks open our hearts to Jesus and to others

Julia Esquivel

"When it is necessary to drink so much pain

When a river of anguish drowns us

When we have wept many tears

And they flow like rivers

From our sad eyes

Only then does the deep sigh of our neighbour become our own "