2022 06 19 Hope in the Living Lord Jesus

John 21:1-15. Romans 8:31-39.

The event recorded in John is, for me one of the most beautiful, calming and reassuring - in the eternal human life of our Lord Jesus. The ultimate horror is over and death is conquered – the eternal life for us with God has been restored from the time that we lost it in Adam and Eves rebellion. A rebellion confirmed by us individually, every day in our own decisions and desires.

For Jesus the Christ the saviour to endure the separation from God – he took our rebellions into himself and came under the enemies power – then for God to raise him back to His rightful unity with God. What does Jesus do -sets up a breakfast on the beach and invite some of his closest friends to join him.

 Could anything be more beautiful, imagine the closeness of the men together around the fire as dawn comes in and you can smell the fire and feel its warmth – and the smell of fish cooking mingling in the salt spray of the lake.

And there is Jesus – the most intermate friend that you have ever had, siting close to you and talking strength and gentleness.

As the net that held the huge number of fish did not break so the traumas that were to come for the followers of Jesus could not break their faith, their trust in Jesus, in the strength of Gods Presence/Spirit in them their faith/trust could not break. And so, with our gatherings of believers God is able to hold the smallest and largest gatherings and lives of His people and bring them safely to shore in His land.

The companion reading for today make this totally clear:

Romans 8:31-39 NIV

**31**What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **Look at what God gave to bring us into His family, to bring the created creatures - us, who were given the breath of life, to give us entrance into His presence where our Lord Jesus sits at Gods right hand in the place of authority. [[1]](#footnote-1) 32**He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

**Now, however we see or understand the word ‘Devil’ or ‘Satan’ the word means ‘accuser’. This being/spirit looks for reasons to accuse us to God and always to ourselves. The aim is to wear us down in our spirit and emotions and ultimately in our flesh so that we begin to doubt our salvation and our place in ‘breakfast with Jesus’. Our face begins to lose its shine and we come to a place where we must grab hold of God and know that we are in the family of God and take time to be still and smile and shake our heads at the accusations in our mind, the emotions that tell us we are not real in our faith - Gods Spirit has gifted us with the ‘helmet f salvation’ to protect our minds – we can stubbornly reaffirm our commitment and that we are forgiven in Jesus. We have Gods rightness to fill our hearts and emotions – we are loved by God and accepted in Jesus – the ‘breast plate of riotousness.’ We are children of God.**

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. **34**Who then is the one who condemns? **There are accusations but no condemnation, even when we have sinned and repented we are forgiven and the offence that we are accused of is taken away. Who the is the one who condemns -** No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **“The Holy Spirit of God prays for us with groaning which cannot be uttered because the Spirit knows both our spirits and Gods “[[2]](#footnote-2) 35**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36**As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
    we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8:31-39;&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28153a)]

**37**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38**For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8:31-39;&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28155b)] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39**neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**There is one person who can dull my reception of God’s love – that is myself. We can make the link very dull by our thoughts and actions, by what we take into our minds and do with our bodies. It is not a matter of how much time we spend ‘with the Lord’ but is my life fully aware of God’s love for me!**

**Yesterday in a Daily reading[[3]](#footnote-3) we see this regarding ourselves:**

**“Do not remember the former things”[[4]](#footnote-4)**

**“We have attics and basements where we store our ‘clutter’.**

**And it is the same in our emotions – relationships. It is hard for a relationship to thrive when neither party hasn’t processed their mental and emotional clutter:**

1. **Regrets that we have over past mistakes.**
2. **Grudges that we hold onto when we feel that we have been wronged.**
3. **Hurts we hide under a cloud of anger, scepticism, and isolation**

**Clinging to hurts and nourishing grudges will eat your soul, consume your happiness and rob you of progress. Like blame, this junk keeps you trapped in the past.**

**Forgive, as God already has! Restore if possible, be honest with ourselves – God already knows – read Psalm 139!**

**“Jesus was anointed with the oil of gladness above all his fellows”[[5]](#footnote-5)**

**and “The joy of the Lord is our strength.”[[6]](#footnote-6)**

**Let’s have breakfast with the Lord of Joy!.**

1. Romans 8:32 and others. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Romans 8:26 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The Word for Today by Vision Christian Ministry 2022 18 June. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Isaiah 43:18 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Hebrews 1:9. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Nehemiah 8:10 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)