

Easter Octave: Friday
9 April 2021
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On this Easter Day, the Gospel is full of symbolism, there are all sorts of layers to this particular episode, this third encounter with the Risen Christ.

One thing for us today: There is no going back.

We've just been through 40 days of the Lenten Season. If you noticed throughout that time, the readings for Mass and even the prayers for Mass – from the "Opening Prayer" to the "Prayer Over the People" that was given each day, we were constantly reminded about casting off an old way, or a former life. We were told to anticipate something new in the upcoming Easter Season that Lent was preparing us for. Maybe you remember that?

Well, here we are in this new season. The Gospel shows us that the apostles are not yet ready to cast off their old way of life, their former ways of fishing. They are in this position of, "now what do we do?" They go back to what is familiar and comfortable. They go back to their former ways.

But there is no going back. The Apostles and Jesus have been in this situation before, so little needs to be said about next steps. Jesus in a peaceful, serene, loving way simply meets the Apostles where they are. They have worked for nothing and caught nothing on their own. When Jesus steps into the scene they catch a multitude. After this scene we will not see the Apostles in their boats ever again. There is no going back. They must, with Jesus' help, go out into the world to catch others.

For us... on this Easter Day... what old way of life did Lent help you to cast off and cast down? What former way, behavior, practice, attitude did Lent teach you to let go? What did Lent lift up that needs to be valued and cherished? May the Resurrection and this Easter Day help in not going back to what was comfortable and known – but may the Risen Lord help us to move forward to the new life he has won for us.