

Resurrection is in the Details

Reflection by Brian Wigger

It's now two weeks after Easter Sunday and I'm betting we've all returned to the routine of our lives. That's when and where we can expect Jesus to show Himself to us. Resurrection does not happen apart from the routines of life but in them. Resurrection is not about escaping life but about becoming alive. Pope Francis showed all of us this up until his last breath on Easter Monday..

Peter was in pain, though you might not have noticed it by his appearance. He was functional, even able to go back to work. But the pain of denying Jesus was dominating him and darkening everything in his life. Peter had betrayed the most life-giving relationship he'd ever had.

While it was true that Jesus had conquered death and appeared to Peter and the others, Peter still felt that deep pain in the gut that comes when you're haunted by the great wrong you've done to someone you love. So there he was, going through the motions at work. Throw out the net, pull it in. Throw it out, pull it in. All night and not a single fish.

Franciscan friar and inspirational speaker Richard Rohr once wrote, "If we do not transform our pain, we will most assuredly transmit it." Peter's pain needed transforming, or it would pollute his life and the lives of those around him.

So Jesus appeared to Peter and asked him this question three times.

'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?'

Each time Jesus asked, it cut a little deeper. Was Jesus rubbing salt in the wound? Of course not. He was cleaning it out. When I studied Deaf Ministry/American Sign Language many years ago, a young woman with whom I studied lost her leg in a car wreck. The doctors were able to reattach it, but she faced a long road to recovery. After three months, when the time came to leave the hospital, she asked if I wanted to see her leg. I didn't really care to, but it seemed important to her. I was stunned to see that even after three months and multiple surgeries, the wound was still deep and exposed. Sensing my alarm, she reassured me, *"They tell me that a wound this deep needs to heal from the inside out."*

Over the years, I've found that to be true with our emotional and spiritual wounds as well. God goes to heart of our deepest wounds and heals us from the inside out. If we don't let God into our brokenness, it will harbor infection and never quite heal.

Each of Jesus' questions cut deeper into Peter until the wound was completely exposed and Jesus' love could heal it. Rather than continuing to transmit his pain, Peter allowed it to be transformed. So may it be with us in the places of our woundedness and pain.