

May 14, 2020

Upper Room- With Peter

The first time I saw him was when I was standing in my boat. It had been a long night and a bad one. He and his companions had caught nothing. He was tired and frustrated from his failure. He prided himself on his fishing prowess and this didn't just hurt his pride but his pocketbook. This stranger was standing on the shore with his brother. He must have been another one of Andrew's religious friends. The stranger asked him if he caught anything and Peter sighed and said no. The stranger said to go back out and try again. Peter wasn't really enthused but his brother said to give it a go. The stranger got in and sat in the back. Peter headed back out into the deep. This time when he let down the net, he got his catch. He could not believe it but he knew that this stranger was someone special. He knew he needed to stay close to this man from then on. But he also knew that he was not worthy to be with this man.

From that first encounter he had left the boat behind and went after this man. He listened to him and slowly but surely he started to believe that there was something special about him. And yet there were those moments when that pride would jump up and impact their relationship. He didn't always understand him. But he knew that this man was more to him than anyone had ever been. He led them to Jerusalem and there he saw the heights and depths of his relationship with this man. There was a grand entrance into Jerusalem, everyone proclaiming him as King. It was a great day. But as that week went on there were other events that were less pleasant. They were at supper when he said to them that they would all leave him and that he Peter, would deny him. Peter could not believe what he was hearing. There was no way he could do that. Yet several hours later, as he sat sobbing back in the Upper Room, he knew that he had done exactly what he had said he would. He could not believe what he had done. He could not forgive what he had done. It was not important that he could not forgive himself because in three days, the forgiveness would come from the one who had prophesied his very denial. With that forgiveness, he could in turn forgive himself.

He had changed his life for the better and Peter knew that nothing mattered but the idea of telling the world about him. He was waiting there with the others for that moment when he would know that it was time to go out and let others know about his friend, his Lord, his Master, Jesus of Nazareth.

Have you had your ups and downs with Jesus?
Have you had moments of denial?
Have you been forgiven? Have you forgiven yourself?

Tomorrow's writing - Thomas

Fr. Marty