



Empowering People to Change the World

**Easter 2015**  
**Restart**

Steve Holt

## Announce:

- **Teleios Youth Retreat**
- **Men's Breakfast with Victor Marx Sept 2**
- **Worship and Prayer Night, same night for our Road worship service with Jared Anderson**
- **Tomorrow morning "Easter on the Prairie"**

## Restart

(Easter, 2015)

- Jesus has died on the cross
- Everyone was there—the Romans soldiers, the Jewish authorities, the crowds, the disciples, and the women
- They had hoped He would pull off another miracle, but it didn't happen—no supernatural work. Just blood, death, and humiliation
- They heard him say, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"
- They heard him say, "It is finished"
- And it felt like it was just that...finished! All hope, all faith, all power, all the future—just evaporated.
- They had left everything to follow Him—they had left family, friends, business, relationships that meant so much. They had pinned their hopes on Jesus and His message
- Now he's dead! He's in a tomb. It's over. It's finished.
- The next day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together with Pilate to talk about Jesus: they told him that

Jesus had said he would arise after 3 days. Thinking that the disciples would come at night and steal the body, Pilate commands them to set up a guard and make it as secure as possible. 50 soldiers and a Roman seal were placed at the tomb

**Discouragement must have set in:**

- All their hopes dashed
- All their future plans demolished in one week
- What began with a parade had ended in murder and death
- Peter, James, John, Andrew, Thomas, they had all left their businesses to follow the outlaw preacher
- Mary Magdalene had a story—7 demons cast out. What is she to do? Go back to her demons?
- What is Mary, Jesus' mother and Jesus' brothers and sisters to do? Their reputation is shot—the mother and the family of a despised criminal?
- Matthew had been a very successful IRS agent. What is he supposed to do? Get back to ripping off his fellows Jews?
- Peter and 6 other disciples decided to just get back to fishing
- Have you ever made plans, thought you had a future that would provide and bring happiness, only to see everything fall to the ground in despair and anguish?

- Have you lost hope? Are you in a job that is driving you down? Are you in a relationship that hasn't worked out the way you had hoped?

## **The Discovery**

- Matthew and Mark record that Mary Magdalene, and the other women hurried to the tomb at dawn, it seems that Mary Magdalene must have walked faster, gotten there first, maybe she was younger than the others
- An angel of the Lord, who looked like lightening, said to her "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell the disciples..."
- It then seems that when Mary in her haste to tell the others, turned around she literally saw Jesus standing there!
- According to Luke, Peter then ran to the tomb and saw the empty tomb but didn't see Jesus arisen
- Then we know that two followers of Jesus had left Jerusalem and were on a road to the town of Emmaus, about 7 miles away. And Jesus appears to them
- Then the scriptures indicate that He appeared to Simon and then 10 of the disciples, and then 11, including Thomas who had major doubts about Jesus' resurrection
- He appears to a fishing party in Galilee
- He appears to over 500 people
- He would later appear to Paul on the road to Damascus

- He then shows himself to the 11 remaining disciples on a mountain in Galilee and ascends to heaven

## Restart

- But the story I like best is the fishing one—maybe because I can understand the therapy of fishing...and for that matter, hunting and shooting
- These are men and men need space. Men relax best either being alone or doing something with a challenge
- Notice all the women were walking, talking, hanging out together.
- But here we find a group of men fishing, and I'm sure their not talking or sharing, just doing what men do best—trying to catch or kill something

## John 21

**After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself*: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."**

- Now this is a remarkable story. I love this story.

- These men are anything but hopeful or joyful, the sense is that they are discouraged and doing the only thing they know how to do—fish
- They did the next best thing—they went to what they knew how to do. That’s what we all do—we all have something.
  - An old habit—it might not be the best for us—it might be an addiction, self medication, a fleshly desire, maybe it’s out of boredom with our lives, but we go there
  - Maybe it’s just doing what we’ve always done—muscle memory, spiritual memory—but there’s no life in it
- But guess what? It’s not working out for them. They once knew how to fish, they were successful commercial fisherman but now they aren’t catching anything
  - Some of you have lost jobs this year—pushed out by people who fear your role, people who can’t stand your success, people who want what you have
  - Some of you have seen close relationships go south this year—your heart has been crushed! Your spirit has been consumed with anguish
  - What once was so successful isn’t working...
- Ex. I have a MacBook Air laptop and sometimes nothing works—the internet’s not connecting; I can’t get my emails—and I have to push down on that right hand button on my keyboard. It asks me three questions:
  - It says, 1) Sleep, or 2) Shut down, or 3) Restart

- I can choose to go to "sleep"—>which means the whole thing just goes dark. Nothing happening. Just dark. I can just let everything go on as it always has been
- I can choose to "shut down"—>I can check out, give up, and lose all desire
- Or, I can choose to RESTART my life→It's off for a moment, but then my computer recalibrates, refocuses and comes back on. The Internet's working. I can get emails again. I Turn on, click on, push in, press in, and let Jesus take over my life
- These disciples needed a restart. You and I need a restart in 2015. This Easter. It's all about a RESTART...

**6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."**

**11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, "Come *and* eat breakfast."**

- Jesus shows up! Jesus shows up! Does He ever!!
- Jesus speaks again, they hear His voice and and He knows

how to fish

- Jesus knows where and how to fish!! Imagine that!
- Jesus wants to eat some fish. Jesus wants a catch—and oh, what a catch. Somebodies counting the fish→153 fish on the other side of the boat!
- Just one slight change—from one side to the other—and they go from zero to 153. That's a restart!!
- Jesus is waiting on the shore of your life. Jesus is standing outside your workplace, your home, your car, your relationship and He wants to restart your life
- He knows your desires and passions and dreams—he gave you those passions and He is working. But you have to let him restart your life
- You have to let Jesus in. You have to throw your nets in a different direction—maybe the opposite of what you thought. Jesus wants you to have a catch
  - Don't choose to go to "sleep"—>I can just let everything go on as it always has been
  - Don't choose to "shut down"—>I can check out, give up, and lose all desire
  - Choose to RESTART my life→ Turn on, click on, push in, press in, and let Jesus take over my life

Give your life to Christ, Surrender all to Christ, throw your nets on the other side of your boat:

- At The Road we have people who have had the chains of sexual immorality broken



- At The Road we have people who have been set free from the chains of addiction
- At The Road we have seen marriage restored, relationship rekindled, new love experienced
- This is what Jesus does

**Jesus said, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly."**

**The Bible says, "Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."**

**The Bible also says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."**