

By the time the apostles left Jerusalem for Galilee, the Jewish leaders had quieted down considerably. Since Jesus appeared only to his family of kingdom believers, and since the apostles were in hiding and did no public preaching, the rulers of the Jews concluded that the gospel movement was, after all, effectually crushed. They were, of course, disconcerted by the increasing spread of rumors that Jesus had risen from the dead, but they depended upon the bribed guards effectively to counteract all such reports by their reiteration of the story that a band of his followers had removed the body.

From this time on, until the apostles were dispersed by the rising tide of persecution, Peter was the generally recognized head of the apostolic corps. Jesus never gave him any such authority, and his fellow apostles never formally elected him to such a position of responsibility; he naturally assumed it and held it by common consent and also because he was their chief preacher. From now on public preaching became the main business of the apostles. After their return from Galilee, Matthias, whom they chose to take the place of Judas, became their treasurer.

During the week they tarried in Jerusalem, Mary the mother of Jesus spent much of the time with the women believers who were stopping at the home of Joseph of Arimathea.

Early this Monday morning when the apostles departed for Galilee, John Mark went along. He followed them out of the city, and when they had passed well beyond Bethany, he boldly came up among them, feeling confident they would not send him back.

The apostles paused several times on the way to Galilee to tell the story of their risen Master and therefore did not arrive at Bethsaida until very late on Wednesday night. It was noontime on Thursday before they were all awake and ready to partake of breakfast.

1. APPEARANCE BY THE LAKE

About six o'clock Friday morning, April 21, the morontia Master made his thirteenth appearance, the first in Galilee, to the ten apostles as their boat drew near the shore close to the usual landing place at Bethsaida.

After the apostles had spent the afternoon and early evening of Thursday in waiting at the Zebedee home, Simon Peter suggested that they go fishing. When Peter proposed the fishing trip, all of the apostles decided to go along. All night they toiled with the nets but caught no fish. They did not much mind the failure to make a catch, for they had many interesting experiences to talk over, things which had so recently happened to them at Jerusalem. But when daylight

U vrijeme kad su apostoli krenuli iz Jeruzalema u Galileju, židovske su se starješine već bitno primirile. Kako se Isus ukazao jedino svojoj obitelji vjerovatelja u kraljevstvo, a kako su apostoli provodili vrijeme u skrovištu i bez javnih propovijedi, židovske su starješine zaključile da je evanđeoski pokret konačno djelotvorno uništen. Bili su, naravno, zabrinuti sve jačim glasinama o Isusovom uskrснуću, ali su se uzdali da će podmićeni stražari suzbiti ove glasine tvrdnjama da su Isusovi učenici ukrali njegovo tijelo.

Od ovog časa pa sve dok ih sve jači progoni nisu raspršili, Petar je bio općeprihvaćeni starješina apostolskog zbora, iako mu Isus nikad nije dao ovakvu vlast, niti su ga apostoli službeno postavili na ovu odgovornu poziciju. On je prirodno preuzeo i držao ovaj naslov zahvaljujući općoj suglasnosti, ali i zbog toga što je bio njihov glavni propovjednik. Od ovog je časa na dalje javna propovijed postala glavnom apostolskom djelatnosti. Nakon povratka iz Galileje, Matija, kojeg su odabrali su da zamijeni Judu, postao je blagajnik.

Tijekom tjedna koji su proveli u Jeruzalemu, Isusova je majka Marija provela najveći dio vremena s vjericama u domu Josipa iz Arimateje.

Rano u ponedjeljak ujutro kad su apostoli krenuli prema Galileji, Ivan Marko je pošao s njima. On ih je slijedio pri izlasku iz grada, a kad su prošli Betaniju, hrabro im se pridružio uvjeren da ga neće vratiti njegovom obiteljskom domu.

Apostoli su zastali više puta na putu prema Galileji kako bi proširili riječ o Učiteljevom uskrснуću i stoga nisu stigli do Betanije sve do kasno u srijedu navečer. U četvrtak su svi bili budni i spremni za doručak tek oko podneva.

1. UKAZANJE PORED JEZERA

Otprilike oko šest u petak ujutro, 21. travnja, morontija Učitelj ukazao se trinaesti put, a prvi put u Galileji, pred desetoricom apostola dok su se brodom približavali pristaništu u Betsaidi.

Nakon što su apostoli proveli poslijepodne i ranu večer u četvrtak očekujući Isusovo ukazanje u Zebedejevom domu, Šimun Petar je predložio da odu u ribolov. Svi su se apostoli složili s njegovim prijedlogom. Cijele su noći bacali mreže, no nisu ništa ulovili. Nije ih osobito brinulo što su bili bez ulova, jer su imali mnoga zanimljiva iskustva, nedavne događaje koji su im se dogodili u Jeruzalemu, o kojima su trebali prodiskutirati.

came, they decided to return to Bethsaida. As they neared the shore, they saw someone on the beach, near the boat landing, standing by a fire. At first they thought it was John Mark, who had come down to welcome them back with their catch, but as they drew nearer the shore, they saw they were mistaken -- the man was too tall for John. It had occurred to none of them that the person on the shore was the Master. They did not altogether understand why Jesus wanted to meet with them amidst the scenes of their earlier associations and out in the open in contact with nature, far away from the shut-in environment of Jerusalem with its tragic associations of fear, betrayal, and death. He had told them that, if they would go into Galilee, he would meet them there, and he was about to fulfill that promise.

As they dropped anchor and prepared to enter the small boat for going ashore, the man on the beach called to them, "Lads, have you caught anything?" And when they answered, "No," he spoke again. "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find fish." While they did not know it was Jesus who had directed them, with one accord they cast in the net as they had been instructed, and immediately it was filled, so much so that they were hardly able to draw it up. Now, John Zebedee was quick of perception, and when he saw the heavy-laden net, he perceived that it was the Master who had spoken to them. When this thought came into his mind, he leaned over and whispered to Peter, "It is the Master." Peter was ever a man of thoughtless action and impetuous devotion; so when John whispered this in his ear, he quickly arose and cast himself into the water that he might the sooner reach the Master's side. His brethren came up close behind him, having come ashore in the small boat, hauling the net of fishes after them.

By this time John Mark was up and, seeing the apostles coming ashore with the heavy-laden net, ran down the beach to greet them; and when he saw eleven men instead of ten, he surmised that the unrecognized one was the risen Jesus, and as the astonished ten stood by in silence, the youth rushed up to the Master and, kneeling at his feet, said, "My Lord and my Master." And then Jesus spoke, not as he had in Jerusalem, when he greeted them with "Peace be upon you," but in commonplace tones he addressed John Mark: "Well, John, I am glad to see you again and in carefree Galilee, where we can have a good visit. Stay with us, John, and have breakfast."

As Jesus talked with the young man, the ten were so astonished and surprised that they neglected to haul the net of fish in upon the beach. Now spoke Jesus: "Bring in your fish and prepare some for breakfast. Already we have the fire and much bread."

While John Mark had paid homage to the Master, Peter had for a moment been shocked at the sight of the coals of fire glowing there on the beach; the scene reminded him so vividly of the midnight fire of

U zoru su se odlučili vratiti u Betsaidu. Kako su se primicali obali, vidjeli su nekoga na plaži u blizini pristaništa, kako stoji pored vatre. Isprva su pomislili da je to Ivan Marko koji je čekao da se vrate s ulovom, ali kako su se više približavali obali uvidjeli su da nisu bili u pravu – čovjek na obali bio je viši od Ivana. Ni jedan od desetorice nije pomislio da je to Učitelj. Nisu u cjelosti shvaćali zašto se Isus želio sresti s njima u situaciji koja je sličila njihovim ranijim sastancima i u prirodi, daleko od zatvorenog okruženja Jeruzalema i tragičnih događaja punih straha, izdaje i smrti. On im je rekao da idu u Galileju i da će ga ondje ponovo vidjeti i ovom se prilikom spremao ispuniti svoje obećanje.

Kad su spustili sidro i spremili se ući u čamac kako bi stigli do obale, čovjek na obali im je doviknuo: "Dečki, jeste li što ulovili?" I kad su oni odgovorili: "Ne," on im se ponovo obrati: "Bacite mrežu s desne strane čamca i naći ćete ribu." Premda učenici nisu znali da je čovjek na obali bio Isus, složno su bacili mrežu onako kako im je rekao, i mreža se istog trena toliko napunila da su je jedva izvukli zbog mnoštva riba. Ivan Zebedejev je bio oštrouman, i kad je ugledao prepunu mrežu, prepoznao je Učitelja. Kad je to pomislio, nagnuo se prema Petru i šaptom mu je rekao: "Gospodin je." Petar je bio čovjek koji je bio izuzetno odan, ali je nepromišljeno reagirao; nakon što je čuo Ivanove riječi, brzo se dignuo i skočio u more kako bi što prije stigao do Učitelja. Drugi učenici došli su za njim čamcem, vukući za sobom mrežu s ribama.

Do ovog je trenutka Ivan Marko već ustao i kad je što vidio apostole na obali s prepunim mrežama, potrčao je do plaže da ih pozdravi; a kad je vidio jedanaest muškaraca umjesto deset, zaključio je da je jedanaesti sigurno uskrsnuti Isus. I dok su desetorica zaprepaštenih apostola nijemo stajali po strani, on je pao ničice pred Učiteljem govoreći: "Moj Gospodine i Učitelju." I onda je Isus progovorio, ali ne onako kako im se obraćao u Jeruzalemu, kada ih je pozdravljao s: "Mir vama," nego se svagdašnjim glasom obrati Ivanu Marku: "Ivane, drago mi je što te ponovo vidim i to u bezbrižnoj Galileji, gdje možemo biti na miru. Ostani s nama, Ivane, i dođi doručkovati."

Dok je Isus govorio s mladićem, apostoli su bili toliko zaprepašteni da su zaboravili izvaditi mreže iz mora. Isus im je rekao: "Donesite ribe i pripremite dio za doručak. Vatra već gori, a imamo i puno kruha."

Dok je Ivan Marko govorio s Isusom, Petar na trenutak zastade u stanju šoka gledajući razgorjelu vatru na plaži; ovaj ga prizor tako jasno podsjeti na ponoćnu vatru u Aninom dvorištu kad se odrekao Učitelja, ali

charcoal in the courtyard of Annas, where he had disowned the Master, but he shook himself and, kneeling at the Master's feet, exclaimed, "My Lord and my Master!"

Peter then joined his comrades as they hauled in the net. When they had landed their catch, they counted the fish, and there were 153 large ones. And again was the mistake made of calling this another miraculous catch of fish. There was no miracle connected with this episode. It was merely an exercise of the Master's preknowledge. He knew the fish were there and accordingly directed the apostles where to cast the net.

Jesus spoke to them, saying: "Come now, all of you, to breakfast. Even the twins should sit down while I visit with you; John Mark will dress the fish." John Mark brought seven good-sized fish, which the Master put on the fire, and when they were cooked, the lad served them to the ten. Then Jesus broke the bread and handed it to John, who in turn served it to the hungry apostles. When they had all been served, Jesus bade John Mark sit down while he himself served the fish and the bread to the lad. And as they ate, Jesus visited with them and recounted their many experiences in Galilee and by this very lake.

This was the third time Jesus had manifested himself to the apostles as a group. When Jesus first addressed them, asking if they had any fish, they did not suspect who he was because it was a common experience for these fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, when they came ashore, to be thus accosted by the fish merchants of Tarichea, who were usually on hand to buy the fresh catches for the drying establishments.

Jesus visited with the ten apostles and John Mark for more than an hour, and then he walked up and down the beach, talking with them two and two -- but not the same couples he had at first sent out together to teach. All eleven of the apostles had come down from Jerusalem together, but Simon Zelotes grew more and more despondent as they drew near Galilee, so that, when they reached Bethsaida, he forsook his brethren and returned to his home.

Before taking leave of them this morning, Jesus directed that two of the apostles should volunteer to go to Simon Zelotes and bring him back that very day. And Peter and Andrew did so.

2. VISITING WITH THE APOSTLES TWO AND TWO

When they had finished breakfast, and while the others sat by the fire, Jesus beckoned to Peter and to John that they should come with him for a stroll on the beach. As they walked along, Jesus said to John, "John, do you love me?" And when John answered, "Yes, Master, with all my heart," the Master said: "Then,

nakon što se odlučno pribrao i odbacio ovu misao, pao je ničice pred Učitelja govoreći: "Moj Gospodine i moj Učitelju."

Petar se zatim pridružio svojim prijateljima dok su vadili mreže. Nakon što su izvukli ulov, prebrojali su ribe, te su našli 153 velike ribe. I ponovo su pogriješili kad su ovaj događaj nazvali čudom. Ovaj događaj nije bilo čudo, već jednostavno rezultat Učiteljevog predznanja. On je znao da se riba nalazila tamo, te je tako uputio apostostole gdje da bace mrežu.

Isus im se obrati govoreći: "Dođite sada svi i doručkujte. Neka sjednu i blizanci dok s vama razgovaram; neka Ivan Marko začini ribu." Ivan Marko je donio sedam većih riba koje je Učitelj stavio na vatru, i kad su bile gotove mladić ih je poslužio desetorici apostola. Isus je zatim prelomio kruh i pružio ga Ivanu koji ga je podijelio izgladnjelim apostolima. Kad su svi bili posluženi, Isus zamoli Ivana Marka da sjedne, te mu je on sam dao ribu s kruhom. I dok su jeli Isus je s njima razgovarao o mnogim događajima koji su se dogodili u Galileji i pored samog ovog jezera.

Isus se ovo već treći put ukazao apostolima. Kad im se Isus prvi put obratio s pitanjem imaju li ribe, nisu ga prepoznali, jer je običaj među ribarima na Galilejskom jezeru, kad se približe obali, da ih tako dočekaju trgovci iz Tariceje koji su željeli kupiti svježu ribu koju bi zatim nosili u sušionice.

Isus je proveo više od sat vremena u društvu desetorice apostola i Ivana Marka, a nakon toga pozvao je u šetnju dvojicu po dvojicu – ali ne iste parove koje je nekoć zajedno poslao da propovijedaju. Sva su jedanaestorica došli zajedno iz Jeruzalema, ali je Šimun Revnitelj postap sve malodušniji dok su se primicali Galileji, te je, kad su došli do Betsaide, napustio svoju braću i otišao svojoj obitelji.

Prije nego što ih je ovog jutra napustio, Isus je predložio da dvojica dobrovoljaca odu po Šimuna Revnitelja i da ga pozovu da se vrati apostolima. Petar i Andrija su učinili kako im je Učitelj rekao.

2. U ŠETNJI S PAROVIMA

Kad su završili doručak i dok su drugi još sjedili pored vatre, Isus je pozvao Petra i Ivana u šetnju po plaži. Dok su šetali Isus upita Ivana: "Ivane, ljubiš li me?" I kad Ivan odgovori: "Da, Gospodine, cijelim svojim srcem," Učitelj reče: "Onda se,

John, give up your intolerance and learn to love men as I have loved you. Devote your life to proving that love is the greatest thing in the world. It is the love of God that impels men to seek salvation. Love is the ancestor of all spiritual goodness, the essence of the true and the beautiful."

Jesus then turned toward Peter and asked, "Peter, do you love me?" Peter answered, "Lord, you know I love you with all my soul." Then said Jesus: "If you love me, Peter, feed my lambs. Do not neglect to minister to the weak, the poor, and the young. Preach the gospel without fear or favor; remember always that God is no respecter of persons. Serve your fellow men even as I have served you; forgive your fellow mortals even as I have forgiven you. Let experience teach you the value of meditation and the power of intelligent reflection."

After they had walked along a little farther, the Master turned to Peter and asked, "Peter, do you really love me?" And then said Simon, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." And again said Jesus: "Then take good care of my sheep. Be a good and a true shepherd to the flock. Betray not their confidence in you. Be not taken by surprise at the enemy's hand. Be on guard at all times -- watch and pray."

When they had gone a few steps farther, Jesus turned to Peter and, for the third time, asked, "Peter, do you truly love me?" And then Peter, being slightly grieved at the Master's seeming distrust of him, said with considerable feeling, "Lord, you know all things, and therefore do you know that I really and truly love you." Then said Jesus: "Feed my sheep. Do not forsake the flock. Be an example and an inspiration to all your fellow shepherds. Love the flock as I have loved you and devote yourself to their welfare even as I have devoted my life to your welfare. And follow after me even to the end."

Peter took this last statement literally -- that he should continue to follow after him -- and turning to Jesus, he pointed to John, asking, "If I follow on after you, what shall this man do?" And then, perceiving that Peter had misunderstood his words, Jesus said: "Peter, be not concerned about what your brethren shall do. If I will that John should tarry after you are gone, even until I come back, what is that to you? Only make sure that you follow me."

This remark spread among the brethren and was received as a statement by Jesus to the effect that John would not die before the Master returned, as many thought and hoped, to establish the kingdom in power and glory. It was this interpretation of what Jesus said that had much to do with getting Simon Zelotes back into service, and keeping him at work.

When they returned to the others, Jesus went for a walk and talk with Andrew and James. When they had gone a short distance, Jesus said to Andrew,

Ivane, riješi svoje netrpeljivosti i nauči voljeti ljude onako kako sam te ja volio. Posveti svoj život nastojanju da dokažeš da je ljubav najveća stvar na svijetu. Ljubav prema Bogu navodi čovjeka da traži spasenje. Ljubav je izvor sve duhovne dobrote i ona je bit svega istinitog i lijepog."

Isus se zatim okrenuo prema Petru i upitao ga: "Petre, ljubiš li me?" Petar je odgovorio: "Učitelju, znaš da te ljubim cijelom svojom dušom." Isus odgovori: "Ako me ljubiš, Petre, onda pasi ovce moje. Ne zaboravi služiti nemoćnima, siromašnima i mladima. Propovijedaj evanđelje bez straha i bez pristranosti; ne zaboravi da su pred Bogom svi ljudi jednaki. Služi svojim bližnjima kao što sam ja služio tebi; oprosti svojim bližnjim smrtnicima kao što sam ja oprostio tebi. Neka te iskustvo nauči vrijednosti meditacije i snazi djelotvorne kontemplacije."

Nakon što malo odmakoe, Učitelj se okrenuo k Petru te ga je upitao: "Petre, ljubiš li me uistinu?" Šimun odgovori: "Da, Gospodine, znaš da te ljubim." Isus ponovo reče: "Onda pasi ovce moje. Budi dobar pastir mome stadu. Nemoj izdati njihovo povjerenje. Nemoj dozvoliti da se iznenada nađeš u rukama neprijatelja. Uvijek budi oprezan – pazi i moli se Bogu."

Kad još malo odmakoe, Isus se okrenuo Petru i treći put ga upita: "Petru, ljubiš li me uistinu?" Petar, pomalo razalošćen Učiteljevim tobožnjim nepovjerenjem, uzvraća sa snažnim emocijama: "Gospodine, ti znaš sve. Ti znaš da te ljubim." Isus zatim reče: "Pasi ovce moje. Nemoj iznevjeriti moje stado. Budi primjer i nadahnuće svim svojim bližnjim pastirima. Ljubi svoje stado kao što sam te ja ljubio i posveti se njihovoj dobrobiti onako kako sam se ja posvetio vašoj. I slijedi me do samog svršetka."

Petar je ove posljednje riječi shvatio doslovce – da ga nastavi slijediti – i nakon što se okrenuo prema Isusu, pokazao je na Ivana i rekao – "Ako te ja budem slijedio, što će ovi ljudi učiniti?" I nakon što je shvatio da je Petar pogrešno protumačio njegove riječi, Isus reče: "Petre, nemoj se brinuti što će tvoja braća učiniti. Ako hoću da Ivan ostane nakon što ti odeš, ako hoću da on ostane dok open ne dođem, što se tebe to tiče? Jedino pazi da me ti slijediš."

Ova se tvrdnja proširila među braćom te su je protumačili kao Isusovu tvrdnju da Ivan neće umrijeti dok se Učitelj ne dođe ponovo da, kao što su mnogi mislili i nadali se, utemelji kraljevstvo u moći i slavi. Ovo je tumačenje Isusovih riječi uvelike pomoglo da se Šimuna Revnitelja vrati u službu i da se u njoj zadrži.

Kad su se vratili k apostolima, Isus povede Andriju i Jakova. Kad su se udaljili od drugih, Isus reče Andriji: "Andrija, vjeruješ li mi?" I kad je

"Andrew, do you trust me?" And when the former chief of the apostles heard Jesus ask such a question, he stood still and answered, "Yes, Master, of a certainty I trust you, and you know that I do." Then said Jesus:

"Andrew, if you trust me, trust your brethren more -- even Peter. I once trusted you with the leadership of your brethren. Now must you trust others as I leave you to go to the Father. When your brethren begin to scatter abroad because of bitter persecutions, be a considerate and wise counselor to James my brother in the flesh when they put heavy burdens upon him which he is not qualified by experience to bear. And then go on trusting, for I will not fail you. When you are through on earth, you shall come to me."

Then Jesus turned to James, asking, "James, do you trust me?" And of course James replied, "Yes, Master, I trust you with all my heart." Then said Jesus: "James, if you trust me more, you will be less impatient with your brethren. If you will trust me, it will help you to be kind to the brotherhood of believers. Learn to weigh the consequences of your sayings and your doings. Remember that the reaping is in accordance with the sowing. Pray for tranquillity of spirit and cultivate patience. These graces, with living faith, shall sustain you when the hour comes to drink the cup of sacrifice. But never be dismayed; when you are through on earth, you shall also come to be with me."

Jesus next talked with Thomas and Nathaniel. Said he to Thomas, "Thomas, do you serve me?" Thomas replied, "Yes, Lord, I serve you now and always." Then said Jesus: "If you would serve me, serve my brethren in the flesh even as I have served you. And be not weary in this well-doing but persevere as one who has been ordained by God for this service of love. When you have finished your service with me on earth, you shall serve with me in glory. Thomas, you must cease doubting; you must grow in faith and the knowledge of truth. Believe in God like a child but cease to act so childishly. Have courage; be strong in faith and mighty in the kingdom of God."

Then said the Master to Nathaniel, "Nathaniel, do you serve me?" And the apostle answered, "Yes, Master, and with an undivided affection." Then said Jesus: "If, therefore, you serve me with a whole heart, make sure that you are devoted to the welfare of my brethren on earth with tireless affection. Admix friendship with your counsel and add love to your philosophy. Serve your fellow men even as I have served you. Be faithful to men as I have watched over you. Be less critical; expect less of some men and thereby lessen the extent of your disappointment. And when the work down here is over, you shall serve with me on high."

After this the Master talked with Matthew and Philip. To Philip he said, "Philip, do you obey me?" Philip answered, "Yes, Lord, I will obey you even with my life." Then said Jesus: "If you would obey me, go then into the lands of the gentiles and proclaim this

nekadašnji apostolski poglavar čuo ove riječi, zastao je i odgovorio: "Da, Učitelju, ja ti zbilja vjerujem i ti znaš da je to istina." Isus zatim reče: "Andrija, ako mi vjeruješ, onda više vjeruj svojoj braći -- čak i Petru. Ja sam ti jednom prilikom povjerio upravljanje tvoje braće. Sad ti moraš vjerovati drugima dok se ja spremam otići svome Ocu. Kad se tvoja braća počnu rasipati pred ljutim progonima, budi suosjećajan i mudar savjetnik mom zemaljskom bratu Jakovu kad stave teško bremene na njegova leđa koje on nije u stanju nositi. I neka te ne izda povjerenje, jer ja te neću iznevjeriti. Kad se završe tvoji zemaljski naponi, doći ćeš k meni."

Isus se zatim obrati Jakovu, govoreći: "Jakove, vjeruješ li mi?" I Jakov naravno odgovori: "Da, Učitelju, vjerujem ti cijelim svojim srcem." Isus reče: "Jakove, ako mi vjeruješ, onda imaj više strpljenja sa svojom braćom. Ako mi budeš vjerovao, to će ti pomoći da budeš ljubezniji prema bratstvu vjernika. Nauči odvagnuti posljedice svojih riječi i djela. Ne zaboravi da žetva ovisi o sjetvi. Moli Boga da ti da spokoj duha i više strpljenja. Ove će ti vrline, zajedno sa živućom vjerom, dati potporu kad budeš trebao ispiti čašu žrtvovanja. Ali ne budi obeshrabren; po svršetku svojih zemaljskih poslova i ti ćeš doći k meni."

Isus je zatim govorio s Tomom i Natanaelom. Isus reče Tomi: "Tomo, služiš li mi?" Toma odgovori, "Da, Učitelju, služim ti danas kao što ću i uvijek." Tada mu je Isus rekao: "Ako mi želiš služiti, služi svojoj zemaljskoj braći onako kako sam ja tebi služio. I neka te ne umore ta dobročinstva, već ustraj znajući da te Bog odabrao za ovu službu ljubavi. Kad završiš ovu službu sa mnom na zemlji, služiti ćeš sa mnom u slavi. Tomo, moraš prestati sumnjati; moraš uznapredovati u vjeri i u poznavanju istine. Vjeruj u Boga poput djeteta, ali prestani se ponašati tako djetinjasto. Budi hrabar; budi jak u vjeri i moćan u Božjem kraljevstvu."

Isus se zatim obrati Natanaelu, "Natanaele, služiš li mi?" I apostol odgovori, "Da, Učitelju, služim ti bezrezervno." Isus reče: "Ako mi uistinu služiš cijelim svojim srcem, odano i neumorno radi za dobrobit moje zemaljske braće. Pripoji prijateljstvo svojim savjetima i ljubav svojoj filozofiji. Služi svojim bližnjima kao što sam ja služio tebi. Budi vjeran ljudima kao što sam ja budno pazio na tebe. Ne budi tako kritičan; očekuj manje od nekih ljudi i na taj način smanji svoje razočaranje. I po svršetku svoga rada ovdje na zemlji, služiti ćeš sa mnom na nebu."

Nakon ovoga Učitelj je govorio s Matijom i Filipom. Reče Filipu: "Filipe, slijediš li moje upute?" Filip odgovori: "Da, Učitelju, slijediti ću tvoje riječi cijelog svog života." Isus reče: "Ako slijediš moje riječi, idi u zemlje nežidova i proglasi ovo evanđelje.

gospel. The prophets have told you that to obey is better than to sacrifice. By faith have you become a God-knowing kingdom son. There is but one law to obey -- that is the command to go forth proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom. Cease to fear men; be unafraid to preach the good news of eternal life to your fellows who languish in darkness and hunger for the light of truth. No more, Philip, shall you busy yourself with money and goods. You now are free to preach the glad tidings just as are your brethren. And I will go before you and be with you even to the end."

And then, speaking to Matthew, the Master asked, "Matthew, do you have it in your heart to obey me?" Matthew answered, "Yes, Lord, I am fully dedicated to doing your will." Then said the Master: "Matthew, if you would obey me, go forth to teach all peoples this gospel of the kingdom. No longer will you serve your brethren the material things of life; henceforth you are also to proclaim the good news of spiritual salvation. From now on have an eye single only to obeying your commission to preach this gospel of the Father's kingdom. As I have done the Father's will on earth, so shall you fulfill the divine commission. Remember, both Jew and gentile are your brethren. Fear no man when you proclaim the saving truths of the gospel of the kingdom of heaven. And where I go, you shall presently come."

Then he walked and talked with the Alpheus twins, James and Judas, and speaking to both of them, he asked, "James and Judas, do you believe in me?" And when they both answered, "Yes, Master, we do believe," he said: "I will soon leave you. You see that I have already left you in the flesh. I tarry only a short time in this form before I go to my Father. You believe in me -- you are my apostles, and you always will be. Go on believing and remembering your association with me, when I am gone, and after you have, perchance, returned to the work you used to do before you came to live with me. Never allow a change in your outward work to influence your allegiance. Have faith in God to the end of your days on earth. Never forget that, when you are a faith son of God, all upright work of the realm is sacred. Nothing which a son of God does can be common. Do your work, therefore, from this time on, as for God. And when you are through on this world, I have other and better worlds where you shall likewise work for me. And in all of this work, on this world and on other worlds, I will work with you, and my spirit shall dwell within you."

It was almost ten o'clock when Jesus returned from his visit with the Alpheus twins, and as he left the apostles, he said: "Farewell, until I meet you all on the mount of your ordination tomorrow at noontime." When he had thus spoken, he vanished from their sight.

3. ON THE MOUNT OF ORDINATION

At noon on Saturday, April 22, the eleven apostles assembled by appointment on the hill near

Proroci su vam govorili da je bolje slijediti Boga nego prinostiti žrtve. Vjerom si postao sin kraljevstva koji poznaje Boga. Postoji samo jedan zakon kojeg se trebaš pridržavati – zapovijed da ideš k ljudima i propovijedaš evanđelje kraljevstva. Prestani se bojati ljudi; bez straha naviještaj Radosnu vijest vječnog života svojim bližnjima koji propadaju u tami i gladuju za svjetlom istine. Filipe, više se nemoj baviti pitanjima novca i trgovine. Sada si slobodan da se, zajedno sa svojom braćom, posvetiš navještavanju Radosne vijesti. I ja ću ići pred tobom i biti s tobom do kraja."

Učitelj zatim upita Matiju: "Matija, slijediš li me svojim srcem?" Matija odgovori, "Da, Učitelju, potpuno sam odan vršenju tvoje volje." Učitelj odgovori: "Matija, ako me želiš slijediti, idi i poučavaj sve narode ovom evanđelju kraljevstva. Nemoj više posluživati svojoj braći materijalne stvari; od sada i ti trebaš navještavati Radosnu vijest duhovnog spasenja. Od sada se u potpunosti posveti vršenju ove zapovijedi – navještavaj ovo evanđelje Očevog kraljevstva. Kao što sam ja vršio Očevu volju na zemlji, tako ćeš i ti ispuniti ovu božansku zadaću. Ne zaboravi da su Židovi i nežidovi jednako tvoja braća. Ne strahuj od ljudi dok budeš proglašavao istine spasenja evanđelja nebeskog kraljevstva. A tamo gdje ja idem i ti ćeš uskoro doći."

Zatim je šetao i razgovarao s Alfejevima blizancima, Jakovom i Judom, obraćajući se obojici s pitanjem: "Jakove i Judo, vjerujete li u mene?" I kad su obojica odgovorili: "Da, Učitelju, vjerujemo," on reče: "Ja ću vas uskoro napustiti. Vidite da sam vas već napustio u tjelesnom obličju. Zadržat ću se još samo kratko vrijeme prije nego što se vratim svome Ocu. Pozivam vas da vjerujete u mene – vi ste moji apostoli i uvijek ćete to biti. Nastavite vjerovati i ne zaboravite vrijeme koje smo proveli zajedno sa mnom nakon što se vratite radu kojim ste se bavili prije našeg zajedničkog života. Ne dopustite da promjene u vašim spoljašnjim aktivnostima utječu na vašu privrženost. Vjerujte u Boga do posljednjeg dana svog zemaljskog života. Nikad ne zaboravite da ćete, dokle god budete Božji sinovi po vjeri, svaku poštenu svjetovnu profesiju učiniti svetom. Ništa što sin Božji čini ne može biti obično. Od ovog časa, stoga, kada nešto radite, radite to za Boga. I po svršetku vašeg zemaljskog života, imam druge i bolje svjetove na kojima ćete nastaviti raditi za mene. I u svakom vašem radu, na ovom svijetu kao i na drugim svjetovima, ja ću raditi s vama i moj će duh živjeti u vama."

Bilo je otprilike oko deset ujutro kad se Isus vratio iz šetnje s Alfejevima blizancima te se oprostio od apostola slijedećim riječima: "Zbogom, dok se ne sretnemo na gori apostolske postavke sutra u podne." I kad je tako rekao, iščeznuo je pred njihovim očima.

3. NA GORI APOSTOLSKJE POSTAVKE

U podne u subotu 22. travnja, jedanaest se apostola okupilo na gori nedaleko od Kafarnauma i

Capernaum, and Jesus appeared among them. This meeting occurred on the very mount where the Master had set them apart as his apostles and as ambassadors of the Father's kingdom on earth. And this was the Master's fourteenth morontia manifestation.

At this time the eleven apostles knelt in a circle about the Master and heard him repeat the charges and saw him re-enact the ordination scene even as when they were first set apart for the special work of the kingdom. And all of this was to them as a memory of their former consecration to the Father's service, except the Master's prayer. When the Master -- the morontia Jesus -- now prayed, it was in tones of majesty and with words of power such as the apostles had never before heard. Their Master now spoke with the rulers of the universes as one who, in his own universe, had had all power and authority committed to his hand. And these eleven men never forgot this experience of the morontia rededication to the former pledges of ambassadorship. The Master spent just one hour on this mount with his ambassadors, and when he had taken an affectionate farewell of them, he vanished from their sight.

And no one saw Jesus for a full week. The apostles really had no idea what to do, not knowing whether the Master had gone to the Father. In this state of uncertainty they tarried at Bethsaida. They were afraid to go fishing lest he come to visit them and they miss seeing him. During this entire week Jesus was occupied with the morontia creatures on earth and with the affairs of the morontia transition which he was experiencing on this world.

4. THE LAKESIDE GATHERING

Word of the appearances of Jesus was spreading throughout Galilee, and every day increasing numbers of believers arrived at the Zebedee home to inquire about the Master's resurrection and to find out the truth about these reputed appearances. Peter, early in the week, sent out word that a public meeting would be held by the seaside the next Sabbath at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Accordingly, on Saturday, April 29, at three o'clock, more than five hundred believers from the environs of Capernaum assembled at Bethsaida to hear Peter preach his first public sermon since the resurrection. The apostle was at his best, and after he had finished his appealing discourse, few of his hearers doubted that the Master had risen from the dead.

Peter ended his sermon, saying: "We affirm that Jesus of Nazareth is not dead; we declare that he has risen from the tomb; we proclaim that we have seen him and talked with him." Just as he finished making this declaration of faith, there by his side, in full view of all these people, the Master appeared in morontia form and, speaking to them in familiar accents, said, "Peace be upon you, and my peace I leave with you."

Isus se pojavio među njima. Ovaj se sastanak dogodio na istom onom mjestu na kojem je Učitelj odvojio dvanaesticu kao svoje apostole i poslanike u kraljevstvu njegovog Oca. Ovo je bilo Isusovo četrnaesto morontija ukazanje.

Ovo su prilikom jedanastorica apostola kleknuli u krug oko Učitelja koji je ponovio svoje ranije upute, kao i cijelu ceremoniju apostolske postavke (zaređenja??) kojom ih je nekoć odvojio za poseban rad u kraljevstvu. A sve je ovo poslužilo da ih podsjeti na njihovo negdašnje posvećenje Očevoj službi, izuzev Učiteljeve molitve. Kad se Učitelj -- morontija Isus -- ovom prilikom pomolio, učinio je to s tolikim dostojanstvom i s riječima moći kakve apostoli nikad prije nisu čuli. Njihov je Učitelj ovom prilikom govorio s vladarima svemira kao onaj koji, u svom vlastitom svemiru, ima svu moć i vlast u svojim rukama. I ova jedanaestorica nikada nisu zaboravili ovo iskustvo morontija potvrde svog negdašnjeg posvećenja poslaničkom zvanju. Učitelj je proveo samo jedan sat na ovoj gori s apostolima i nakon što se s njima srdačno oprostio, iščeznuo je pred njima.

I nitko nije vidio Isusa cijeloga tjedna. Apostoli uistinu nisu znali što činiti, jer nisu znali je li Učitelj otišao svome Ocu. U ovom stanju nesigurnosti ostali su u Betsaidi. Bojali su se otići u ribolov jer su se bojali da bi se Isus mogao pojaviti u njihovoj odsutnosti te ga ne bi susreli. Tijekom cijelog ovog tjedna Isus se posvetio morontija bićima na zemlji kao i stvarima vezanim uz morontija prijelaz koji je proživljavao na ovom svijetu.

4. PORED JEZERA

Cijelom se Galilejom širila riječ o Isusovim ukazanjima i svaki je dan sve veći broj vjernika dolazio u Zebedejev dom kako bi se raspitali o Učiteljevom uskrsnuću i otkrili istinu o njegovim navodnim ukazanjima. Petar je stoga objavio da će se na obali naredne subote u tri poslije podne održati javni sastanak.

U subotu, 29. travnja u tri sata, u Betsaidi se okupilo više od pet stotina vjernika iz okolice Kafarnauma kako bi čuli prvu Petrovu javnu propovijed nakon uskrsnuća. Apostol je ovom prilikom bio u stanju dati sve od sebe i kad je završio svoj snažni javni govor, većina je okupljenih slušatelja vjerovala da je Učitelj uskrsnuo.

Petar je završio svoju propovijed riječima: "Mi tvrdimo da Isus iz Nazareta nije mrtav; tvrdimo da je ustao iz mrtvih; proglašavamo da smo ga vidjeli i da smo s njim govorili." Upravo kad je završio s ovim proglašenjem vjere, pored njega pojavio se Isus u svom morontija obliku tako su ga svi ti ljudi mogli u potpunosti vidjeti, te im se obratio prepoznatljivim naglaskom: "Ostavljam vam mir; mir i to svoj dajem vam."

When he had thus appeared and had so spoken to them, he vanished from their sight. This was the fifteenth morontia manifestation of the risen Jesus.

Because of certain things said to the eleven while they were in conference with the Master on the mount of ordination, the apostles received the impression that their Master would presently make a public appearance before a group of the Galilean believers, and that, after he had done so, they were to return to Jerusalem. Accordingly, early the next day, Sunday, April 30, the eleven left Bethsaida for Jerusalem. They did considerable teaching and preaching on the way down the Jordan, so that they did not arrive at the home of the Marks in Jerusalem until late on Wednesday, May 3.

This was a sad homecoming for John Mark. Just a few hours before he reached home, his father, Elijah Mark, suddenly died from a hemorrhage in the brain. Although the thought of the certainty of the resurrection of the dead did much to comfort the apostles in their grief, at the same time they truly mourned the loss of their good friend, who had been their staunch supporter even in the times of great trouble and disappointment. John Mark did all he could to comfort his mother and, speaking for her, invited the apostles to continue to make their home at her house. And the eleven made this upper chamber their headquarters until after the day of Pentecost.

The apostles had purposely entered Jerusalem after nightfall that they might not be seen by the Jewish authorities. Neither did they publicly appear in connection with the funeral of Elijah Mark. All the next day they remained in quiet seclusion in this eventful upper chamber.

On Thursday night the apostles had a wonderful meeting in this upper chamber and all pledged themselves to go forth in the public preaching of the new gospel of the risen Lord except Thomas, Simon Zelotes, and the Alpheus twins. Already had begun the first steps of changing the gospel of the kingdom -- sonship with God and brotherhood with man -- into the proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus. Nathaniel opposed this shift in the burden of their public message, but he could not withstand Peter's eloquence, neither could he overcome the enthusiasm of the disciples, especially the women believers.

And so, under the vigorous leadership of Peter and ere the Master ascended to the Father, his well-meaning representatives began that subtle process of gradually and certainly changing the religion of Jesus into a new and modified form of religion about Jesus.

Nakon što se tako ukazao i ovo im rekao, nestao je pred njihovim očima. Bilo je to petnaesto morontija ukazanje uskrslog Isusa.

Zbog određenih stvari koje je rekao jedanaestorici dok su razgovarali s Učiteljem na gori apostolske postavke, apostoli su zaključili da se njihov Učitelj spremao javno ukazati pred grupom galilejskih vjernika i da se nakon tog događaja trebaju vratiti u Jeruzalem. Stoga su sutradan rano ujutro, u nedjelju 30. travnja, apostoli napustili Betsaidu i krenuli prema Jeruzalemu. Puno su naučavali i propovijedali na putu prema Jordanu, tako da su do doma Markove obitelji u Jeruzalemu stigli tek u srijedu 3. svibnja.

Ivanu Marku ovo je bio tužan povratak kući. Nekoliko sati prije nego što je došao kući njegov je otac Ilija Marko preminuo od moždanog udara. Premda je vjera u uskrsnuće mrtvih bitno ublažila tugu apostola, istovremeno su iskreno tugovali radi gubitka dobrog prijatelja koji im je pružio veliku podršku u trenucima velikih nevolja i razočaranja. Ivan Marko učinio je sve što je bilo u njegovoj moći kako bi utješio svoju majku, te je, nakon razgovora s njom, pozvao apostole da se smjeste u njezinoj kući. I oni su se smjestili u gornjim odajama kuće sve do Duhova.

Apostoli su namjerno ušli u Jeruzalem po noći kako ih židovske vlasti ne bi uočile. Iz istog se razloga nisu pojavili na pogrebu Ilije Marka. Cijeli naredn dan proveli su u ovoj sobi u kojoj su se odigrali bitni događaji.

U četvrtak navečer apostoli su održali predivan sastanak u ovoj sobi i ovom su se prilikom svi osim Tome, Šimuna Revnitelja i Alfejevih blizanaca zavjetovali da će se posvetiti javnom propovijedanju novog evanđelja svog uskrslog Učitelja. Već sada su započeli prvi koraci u promjeni evanđelja kraljevstva – učenja da su svi ljudi djeca Božja i stoga braća jedni drugima – u proglašenje Isusovog uskrsnuća. Natanael se protivio toj promjeni biti njihove javne poruke, ali se nije mogao suprotstaviti niti Petrovoj rječitosti niti entuzijazmu drugih učenika, posebice žena.

I tako su, pod Petrovim entuzijastičnim vodstvom još prije nego što je Učitelj uzašao k Ocu, njegovi dobronamjerni predstavnici započeli taj neprimjetni proces postupne ali definitivne preobrazbe Isusove religije u novu i izmijenjenu religiju o Isusu.