

**Invisible Curtain**    Friday within the Octave of Easter    April 26, 2019    Acts 4:1-12  
**Jn21:1-14**    (Jesus abides forever with those who believe in him, and he feeds them.)

**“And none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they realized it was the Lord.”**

Now the appearances of Jesus are each one different, and yet there’s the same pattern that **the disciples don’t recognize Jesus at first, but later they recognize. Now this happens to parallel the appearances of Yahweh in the Old Testament.** Likewise, when Yahweh appears, people don’t recognize him at first, but later they say, “Oh, that must have been Yahweh.” You will remember for example Jacob struggling with an angel, so to speak, all night long, but later he says, “Oh, I was contending with the Lord.” Abraham welcoming some guests in the heat of the day, later he said, “I was visited by the Lord,” and so on. **So the appearances of Jesus, I believe, tie together both Testaments,** because even the beginning of the New Testament is the angel Gabriel telling Mary that her child shall be called Son of God the Most High, which is one of Yahweh’s titles. And of course Justin Martyr says Yahweh is the pre-incarnate Christ. He has good reason to say that because, again, all of these parallels: **Jesus is actually the incarnate Yahweh; Yahweh is the pre-incarnate Christ.** There is a sort of equivalence.

**Now raised from the dead Christ abides in a different kind of dimension.** But since he is, after all, the incarnate God, he has always existed. So really the disciples don’t see the glory of Christ. **The idea that Christ exists in glory is not something they actually report or experience or see.** They only beheld it at the time of the Transfiguration; then they beheld the glory. Now they are not beholding the glory. They are simply experiencing the presence here and there, which indicates that **the risen Christ is not bound by any sort of limitation.** So as they return to their normal work, there he is. Wherever they go, wherever they are traveling, there he is. The idea that they are supposed to understand is that **he will abide with them forever,** he will never abandon them. And **he will be with them in order to feed them.** You may not think fish belongs in the Eucharist, but actually it’s feeding, so it is Eucharist. **So Jesus abides forever with those who believe in him. And he feeds them** whether they see him or not, whether they feel him or not. He is just on the other side of an invisible curtain that separates us all from glory.