

John 21: 1 – 19

**'Active Resurrection Hope'**

**Introduction ...**

Imagine for a moment that you were set a challenge – rather like on the Apprentice.

This challenge is to set up a Shoe Repair shop and then a chain of such shops in every town in Shropshire.

So, have a think – and feel free to chat in small groups -with masks on if people in the group would prefer:

**How would you recruit people – what kind of people would you recruit – to staff these Shoe Repair shops?**

*(we chatted amongst ourselves, and various ideas were suggested but no one had suggested the following)*

Well someone who set himself this challenge is John Timpson. John Timpson owns the shoe repair chain that bears his name. His business has recruited 270 former prisoners as employees. **(we didn't mention this group of people?)**

He and his wife have also fostered some 90 children.

In a BBC Radio 4 Lent talk, ***Faith in 'Lost Causes'***, he spoke about the difference between passive optimism – thinking things might get better – and active hope: making them better. Understanding insecurities that make people behave badly, and having faith in their potential and hope for their future is, he said, transformative. He spoke of trust, support, and love.

He is – knowingly or not – following the example of Jesus in today's Gospel. Jesus, understanding the fears and failures of the group of disciples offers them hospitality once more, he makes it clear that he still trusts the disciples he loves, with his ministry of supporting his flock.

And how about that conversation with Peter? Peter had denied him three times ... Was Jesus simply 'rubbing his nose' in it – to ask Peter three times if Peter really loved him? No – that wasn't what Jesus was about. Instead – he was giving Peter assurance for the future – assurance that Jesus had forgiven him and that he was still called to be both disciple – a learner and follower of Jesus – and an Apostle – a messenger and representative of Jesus.

We live in a world where we're only just beginning to re-think the reaction: "If things are broken we throw them away".

The Bible however is full of the message that nothing is wasted and that everyone can be part of the kingdom and used for the purposes of God.

Jesus didn't throw his calling of Peter away – despite Peter's denials. John Timpson didn't throw **PTO**

away the potential careers of some who had been in prison.

*Kintsugi* is the ancient Japanese art of mending pots with seams of gold. The meaning of *Kintsugi* is 'golden journey', and instead of seeking to hide the cracks and lines it makes a feature of them.

***(Revd Judy showed us a picture of a very cracked bowl that had smashed and been mended with seams of gold, and it is beautiful)***

Knowing our own brokenness – as Peter did – can be a step towards God's healing in us and let's remember that in Jesus – we worship a wounded healer. And the healed brokenness can be a strength that was not present before – maybe Peter was more humble and maybe less critical of the failings of others.

Let's have a few moments of quiet – to look again at the Kintsugi pot. In what way do you need healing – and how can God help to turn that need into a new and positive future?

Adapted from [Explore and respond \( rootsontheweb.com\)](http://rootsontheweb.com)