

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (FOR APRIL 18, 2021)

For Community Groups or Personal Study

The Bible contains a number of interesting, and unexpected, stories about the hours and days following the ultimate grand miracle of Easter. Jesus walked with two as they made their way to a town called Emmaus. Neither of them recognized Jesus until Jesus blessed and broke the bread, we are told their eyes were opened, they recognized Him and He disappeared from their sight (Luke 24).

Both Luke and John tell us that Jesus suddenly appeared to the disciples in a room with locked doors. Jesus had to reassure them He was not a ghost. Their fear was understandable, expected.

John records another encounter. After an unproductive night of fishing someone on shore shouted to them, "Did you catch anything?" That unwelcome question was followed by unsolicited advice. "Try fishing on the right side of the boat." They must have been desperate because they heaved their nets over the right side (maybe recalling Luke 5). The result, a net full of 153 large fish! That was only the beginning of many miracles that morning.

Even though Easter happened once in history ... it's not a one-time miracle. It's an everyday miracle. Where and how are we encountering Jesus in the weeks, months and years after Easter?

BELIEVE. SERMON PASSAGE: JOHN 21:1-14

¹ After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (also known as the Sea of Galilee), and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, 'Children, do you have any fish?' They answered him, 'No.' ⁶ He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many,

the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead."

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Why do you think John wrote about this particular encounter with Jesus? Why did these disciples go fishing?
2. Where did Jesus get the fish that was already cooking over the fire (verse 9)?
3. Read Luke 5:1-11. What similarities and differences are there between these two "miraculous fish" stories?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. Why do you think, as professional fishermen fishing ALL night, they were not able to catch even a single fish?
5. How did the "other disciple" recognize it was Jesus?
6. Is there any significance to the 153 large fish? Why did Jesus have the disciples bring some of their own fish?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

7. Have there been times and places where you have been able to see and hear Jesus more easily? Explain.
8. Why was Peter so eager to be with Jesus (he dove in and swam to shore)? Are we, are you, eager to be with Jesus?
9. Are you more like Peter (jump right in), or more like John (you recognize Jesus, don't jump in, but you point to Jesus)? Or, more like those who stayed with the boat and fish?

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a minute or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to meet you in the simple moments of your life (breakfast, a walk on the beach ...). Ask God to take and use what you have to offer Him and others. He loves us (you).