

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

#### GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (FOR APRIL 25, 2021)

For Community Groups or Personal Study

This morning we continue with the post-Easter (resurrection) stories of Jesus. On this occasion Jesus met seven of His closest followers on the shore of Lake Tiberius (also known as Lake Galilee). In the background fish were cooking over a charcoal fire. This was the “breakfast encounter.” How amazing is it, after the life-changing event of Easter, that Jesus took time to have breakfast with friends (He even provided the main course for the meal). In the aftermath of the greatest of all miracles (THE earth shattering, history altering, life conquering death miracle) that first Easter morning you might imagine Jesus had important people to see, important things to do, a world of hurting and broken people to heal and save. Once again, we see God’s heart. While all of human history pivots on what happens that first Easter, Jesus took time to eat breakfast with a group of friends. His relationship with them, and His relationship with us, were and are top priorities. They were, we are, on God’s heart. He sought them out. He seeks us out. He provided for them. He provides for us. And, in this story, He will patiently, and with a generous dose of love, restore a broken man, a failed ministry, a fragile life. Jesus did that for each of them on the shore of that lake. He does the same for each of us right now and right here. He’s calling ... Breakfast is ready! Where and how are we (you) encountering Jesus in the weeks, months, and years after Easter?

#### **BELIEVE. SERMON PASSAGE:** JOHN 21:15-19

<sup>15</sup> When they (Jesus and the seven disciples mentioned earlier in John 21:2) had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ <sup>16</sup> He said to him a second time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Tend my Sheep.’ <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ and he said to Him, ‘Lord, you know everything, you know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my Sheep.’ <sup>18</sup> ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not to go.’ <sup>19</sup> (This He said to show what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this He said to him, ‘Follow me.’”

Read this story as if recalling the event as a participant. Imagine you are one of the disciples, fishing all night with no success. Then a figure appears on the shore, “Cast your nets on the other side of the boat.” You

are desperate and so you throw your fishing net. The haul of fish is nothing short of a miracle. You realize it’s Jesus.

#### WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What question does Jesus ask Peter, 3 times?
2. How did Peter respond to Jesus’ question? Why was Peter’s response different the third time?
3. How did Jesus describe the death Peter would face?

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. Why did Jesus ask Peter the same question three different times? (See John 18:15-27, Matthew 26:69-75). Why didn’t Jesus ask the others the same question?
5. Who are the sheep (lambs) and who do they belong to? What did Jesus mean when He asked Peter to “tend” and to “feed” the sheep (lambs)?
6. When Jesus told Peter the way Peter would die, do you think that brought fear or comfort to Peter? Explain.

#### WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

7. If you knew when and how you were going to die how would that affect how you lived the rest of your life?
8. Do you believe that all of your past failures have been forgiven by God? Why or why not?
9. How will you answer Jesus when He asks you, “Do you love me?” and, “Do you love me more than these?”

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 forgive you for the times you have failed Him and others. Ask God to help you love Him more. Ask God for the courage to live your life without fear, even when you face your final days. He will help us (you) because He loves us (you).