

DAILY READING PLAN



Week of May 8, 2022

Arise: Discipleship

John 21:1-11

John 21:1-11 – Jesus appeared again to the disciples, this time at the Tiberias Sea (the Sea of Galilee). This is how he did it: Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed “Twin”), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the brothers Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. Simon Peter announced, “I’m going fishing.” The rest of them replied, “We’re going with you.” They went out and got in the boat. They caught nothing that night. When the sun came up, Jesus was standing on the beach, but they didn’t recognize him. Jesus spoke to them: “Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?” They answered, “No.” He said, “Throw the net off the right side of the boat and see what happens.” They did what he said. Suddenly, there were so many fish in it that they weren’t strong enough to pull it in. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Master!” The other disciples came in by boat, for they weren’t far from land, a hundred yards or so, pulling along the net full of fish. When they got out of the boat, they saw a fire laid, with fish and bread cooking on it. Jesus said, “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught.” Simon Peter joined them and pulled the net to shore—153 big fish! And even with all those fish, the net didn’t rip.

Day 1 | Read John 21:1-2

Jesus appeared at the Sea of Galilee to Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the brothers Zebedee, and two other disciples. Simon Peter announced, “I’m going fishing.” The rest of the disciples replied, “We’re going with you!”

- Wait, what? Going fishing? Take a few minutes and read this entire story from John 21:1-11. Notice how stunning it is that after everything that has taken place (Festival of Passover, betrayals, terror, crucifixions, death, and rumors of a resurrection), it is easy to go into “default” mode. After all of that, Peter and his buddies go back to what they know best. When you encounter stress and under pressure, what do you do to ease the tension? What are some healthy practices when the going gets tough? Could it be that Jesus has another, better idea? Stay tuned here.

Day 2 | Read John 21:3-4

They went out and got in the boat. They caught nothing that night.

- In our series called Arise!, we’re giving specific attention to how the resurrection of Jesus Christ reframes everything. Our worship, fellowship, discipleship, and stewardship take on new dimensions of meaning when we participate in the reality of “life after death.” Have a conversation with a friend about resurrection and what “life after death” means for those areas in your life.

Day 3 | Read John 21:5-6

Jesus spoke to them: “Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?” They answered, “No.” He said, “Throw the net off the right side of the boat and see what happens.”

- The disciples had fished all night. They’d thrown their nets over the side of their little boat, who knows how many times. The net kept coming up empty. They were disappointed; they were tired and didn’t know what was next. Do you ever feel that way? Do you feel like nothing goes the way you hope it would? Your nets are empty, and you’re unsatisfied, tired of the same old thing day after day. Jesus is challenging you to do what he called those first disciples to do: “Throw your nets off the other side of the boat.” Throw your nets in a different direction, in a new direction. After all, it is Easter, and the resurrected Jesus Christ changes everything.

Day 4 | Read John 21:6-7

They did what he said. All of a sudden, there were so many fish in it that they weren't strong enough to pull it in. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Master!"

- As if the resurrection wasn't surprising enough, Jesus decided to show his disciples what was possible because, in Christ, everything comes to life... including you. Yesterday we brought to mind those times in life when we feel empty and defeated, even dead. Jesus reminds us that we have a mission to be the resurrected hands of Jesus in the world. Centuries ago, Saint Teresa of Avila wrote this: "You are the presence of Christ in the world—who has no body now, but yours; no hands, no feet on earth but yours—yours are the eyes through which Christ looks with compassion on the world. Yours are the feet with which Jesus walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which God blesses all the world." How do you respond to this? What next step will you take as the hands and feet of Jesus?

Day 5 | Read John 21:8-11

The other disciples came in by boat, for they weren't far from land, a hundred yards or so, pulling along the net full of fish. When they got out of the boat, they saw a fire laid, with fish and bread cooking on it. Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you've just caught." Simon Peter joined them and pulled the net to shore—153 big fish! And even with all those fish, the net didn't rip.

- Jesus continues to be all about extravagant grace and power. Jesus calls the church to be his hands and feet in the world. But what does that look like? Again, from Teresa of Avila: "You are here to reach across the gap – across the chasm into the life of someone in need. You are here to be the hands, the feet, the eyes—the body of Christ because Christ has no body now on earth but yours." When Jesus challenged the disciples to throw their nets off the other side of the boat, it wasn't so much that it was six to ten feet away. He challenged the disciples to see everything from a new perspective, from a resurrection perspective, where disciples have the stone of limitations rolled away. What is Jesus doing through you in these days of resurrection?