

SCRIPTURE READING FOR SUNDAY - APRIL 23, 2023 @ CAPC OAKLAND

LANGUAGE NOTES & TEXTUAL CONNECTIONS

John is the fourth of the four gospels in the Second Testament. The gospels are the telling of the story of the life of Jesus of Nazareth and his teachings. John is most likely the last of the four to be written down as it contains a more developed theological content, and heavy use of metaphor. John's telling contains several encounters of the living Jesus after his resurrection. In chapter 20, the book seems to have ended with a conclusion (20:30-31). Could it be that today's chapter 21 is possibly an epilogue?; maybe even added later? Within it we can see the inclusion of two principal stories absent from John until now: the miraculous catch of fish (as told in Luke 5) and a sort of communion scene on the beach.

It echoes and in conversation with other key parts of John's telling of Jesus (*more on this on the back of this sheet*).

the Messiah, the Son of God:: The meaning of these two titles find their pertinence in the telling of the story of Jesus often in an action or controversy he provokes. It's in that event that the work of God is accomplished. "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of *the Son of God*, and those who hear will live." – John 5:25 (*Jesus speaking*)

life in his name :: ¹⁰ The Word was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed *in his name*, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. – John 1:10-14

NOTHING :: ¹⁰ This phrasing repeats that in the warning Jesus gave his disciples in John 15:5 "for apart from me you can do NOTHING."

Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some:: This calls to mind the only other story of the disciples as fisherman, in which after a miraculous catch their existing vocations are expanded to one of pastorship. -- ⁴ When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your

John 20:30-21:25 NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is *the Messiah, the Son of God*, and that through believing you may have *life in his name*.

¹ After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 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 after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to 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 there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "**IT IS THE LORD!**" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish 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, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." *Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord.* ¹³ Jesus came and **TOOK THE BREAD AND GAVE IT TO THEM** and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they 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.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt 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. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

²⁰ Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” ²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about him?” ²² Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!” ²³ So the rumor spread among the brothers and sisters that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”

²⁴ This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged you, enraged you, or surprised you in these texts?
- John alone includes these stories about this fireside chat and the importance of Peter and John. Why? Do we need them?
- The last time that Peter was near a fire (in the gospel telling) is in John 18:18 when he denies Jesus three times while warming himself near a fire. How might this fireside chat and the unexpected meal have triggered Peter emotionally? Why does he (and the others) have such a hard time fulfilling their vocation to be fishers of people? (Luke 5:10)
- What does it mean to care for the lambs and sheep of Jesus? Is this also our vocation? What might that look like in today’s (post) Covid world?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – *or to us, as a church* – to act, speak, be, or change, through this word of scripture?

LANGUAGE NOTES & TEXTUAL CONNECTIONS

... your nets for a catch.” ⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”
Luke 5:4-8

IT IS THE LORD! :: this is the third time this expression of faith and belief is expressed by someone when they “SEE” Jesus for who is he. Mary said it in 20:18; Thomas in 20:28.

Now none of the disciples :: The gospel author makes clear that the doubt of Thomas was not a unique individual problem, but that, on the contrary, such doubt lives in us all and so ever and anew requires overcoming.” (Thyen).

TOOK THE BREAD AND GAVE IT TO THEM: :: It’s nearly the same as the story of the feeding of the 5,000 in John 6:11 – “Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.” The phrasing brings to mind communion a meal of rededication and reunion. “ ²³ For I [the apostle Paul] received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed **TOOK A LOAF OF BREAD**, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” 1 Corinthians 11:23-26