- Day 6 Sunday, April 19, 2020 Luke 24:36-49
 - 1) Is Easter supposed to be "comfortable" or is it supped to be "comforting"? Why?
 - 2) Were the events of the first Easter "comfortable" for the early disciples? Why or why not?
 - 3) What is ironic about the disciples' reaction to the greeting of Jesus?
 - 4) In Luke 24:38, how does Jesus characterize and describe the current demeanor of the disciples?
 - 5) At first, they doubted for they thought that they had seen a ghost (24:37), but after the shock wore off and the truth began to settle in what was the unlikely cause of their continued doubts? See Luke 24:41.
 - 6) What three things does Jesus offer as the remedy to calm their minds and give them the 'peace' that he desires to give? See 24:39; 24:41b-43; 24:45.
 - 7) What place should doubts have within the life of a Christian and the church?
 - a. Does Jesus shame any of them for having the doubts in their minds for either their negative doubts (fears and worries) or positive doubts (a feeling that it is too good to be true?
 - b. Too often we try to hide our doubts, struggles, or questions from other believers. Where should we take our doubts when we are struggle with them?

Day 7 Monday, April 20, 2020 John 20:19-23

- 1) It says that the disciples had locked the doors for fear of the Jews. What were the locked doors not able to keep out that night?
- 2) What application can be made to the lives of the disciples and Jesus based on the words of 1 John 4:18?
- 3) How does the loving Savior seek to cast out the fear from his beloved disciples?
 - a. How are the events of John 20:19-23 similar to our reading yesterday from Luke 24:36-49?
 - b. What does John 20:22-23 add to our understanding of what Jesus is giving to his disciples?
 - c. What does it mean that Jesus 'breathed' on them (20:22)?
 - d. These details at first seem a bit odd to us, but we see God doing something similar in Genesis 2:7, when he breathes life and spirit into the first man. What might this mean that Jesus is breathing life and spirit into these newly commissioned followers of Jesus?
- 4) Where in your life are you trying to shut Jesus out of your life either for fear of what he would say or shame over what you have done? How would your life change if you invited the risen Lord, even into this part of your soul?

Day 8 Tuesday, April 21, 2020 John 20:24-31

- We often call him 'doubting' Thomas, but...
 a. ...how do Thomas' words and demands go beyond simple doubts?
 - b. ...what 'information' does Thomas have that would lead him to believe?
 - c. ...what information is Thomas lacking for him to be able to believe?
 - d. ...what then is standing in the way of Thomas believing?
- 2) How does Jesus treat Thomas after his skeptical and harsh demands? Is this how we would typically approach people who have expressed criticism about us?
- 3) What is so startling about Thomas' confession in John 20:28?
 - a. What does it say about the full and true identity of Jesus?
 - b. This revelation may not seem very revolutionary to us, but what did it mean to 1st century Jews that Jesus was "God"?
 - c. Lazarus was raised from the dead and no one mistook him for 'God', what is it about the resurrection of Jesus that leads Thomas to confess that Jesus is more than a prophet, more than a Savior?
- 4) According to Jesus' words in 20:29, who should be considered more blessed, the believers who were able to "see" the events of the first Easter or the believers who have only been able to "hear" about the events of the first Easter? Why?

Day 9 Wednesday, April 22, 2020 John 21:1-8

- 1) How should we understand about Peter's desire to turn back to his old profession of fishing? In your opinion, is it positive or negative that Peter and the others have chosen to spend this time out on the lake?
- 2) What are we supposed to learn as an application for our own life that the disciples spent all night working by their own labors to bring in fish and proved unsuccessful, but when Jesus gives the simplest tip of trying the other side, their efforts are blessed to overflowing? How does this fit with what Jesus taught the disciples in John 14:5-8?
- 3) What prevented the disciples from recognizing that it was Jesus this time? What of the story revealed the identity of this stranger?
- 4) Who is the first to recognize that it is Jesus upon the shore? How does this fit within the wider description of this person in the Gospel of John (13:23; 18:26-27; 20:4-5, 8)
- 5) Who is the first to make a bold and brash action in response to Jesus? How does this fit within the wider description of this person in the Gospel of John (13:8-10; 13:36-38; 18:17-18, 25-27; 20:6-7)?
- 6) What is uniquely different between Peter's reaction at this miraculous catch of fish now following Jesus' resurrection compared to Peter's reaction at the miraculous catch of fish when Peter was first called to be a disciple (Luke 5:1-10, especially 5:8?

Day 10 Thursday, April 23, 2020 John 21:9-14

- 1) What is unique about the way in which Jesus receives the disciples?
- 2) What is the only other meal that takes place in the Gospel of John along the Sea of Tiberius (aka The Sea of Galilee)? See John 6
 - a. What was the result of what began as a meager meal on that other occasion (see John 6:11-12)?
 - b. What was the result of this meager fishing trip and the meal that followed here?
- 3) What do you think that it means in John 21:20 that "None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord"?
 - a. What was different about Jesus after his resurrection?
 - b. How might these passages from other New Testament books shine a light on the change...
 - i. 1 John 3:1-3
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 51-53
 - iii. 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Jesus is the same, yet different. He is recognizable and yet it takes the disciples a minute. It is like running into a childhood friend many years later. At first you can't place them, but you see that is the person that you have already know, but they have been transformed. (Timothy Keller)

Day 11 Friday, April 24, 2020 John 21:15-19

- 1) Why does Jesus ask Peter three consecutive times if he loves him? John places another hint within the text of his gospel to tie this scene with an earlier event in Peter's life, as both take place over a "charcoal fire" (18:18 and 21:19).
- 2) What had Peter brashly promised on the night before Jesus' death (John 13:36-38; Matt 26:33)? How has Peter's demeanor changed between these two different interactions with Jesus?
- 3) Why do you think that Peter was "hurt" (21:17)?
 - a. Is it ever necessary to share truthful information for the good of the other person, even though it might hurt someone?
 - b. Do we, however, do it?
 - c. Are we any good at it?
 - d. How is the approach of Jesus different?
- 4) By the way that John relays the order of events it appears that he has this conversation with Peter in the midst of the whole group gathered around the fire for breakfast. Why would Jesus handle this reinstatement of Peter as a leader within his followers in a public setting?
- 5) How do we handle our sins that our "public" sins?
 - a. How well do we do at the personal confession of sins?
 - b. How well do we do at personal words of forgiveness/absolution?

Day 12 Saturday, April 25, 2020 John 21:20-25

- 1) Why would Peter in the midst of Jesus' conversation with him about his future be so concerned about the other disciple mentioned in John 21:20-21? Jesus is in the middle of giving instruction to Peter and telling him of his ultimate future, but Why would Peter be so concerned about what Jesus will do with another disciple?
- 2) "Comparison is the thief of joy." In what ways, do you see the truth of this quote manifest itself in our world and in your life?
- 3) If we look back over the interaction of these two disciples, what do we begin to see? In these different sections of the gospel what do we notice about their interaction with one another and with Jesus?
 - a. At the Last Supper The Beloved Disciple 13:23ff

Peter 13:24; 13:8-10; 13:36-38

b. At the Trial and the Cross The Beloved Disciple 18:26-27

Peter 18:17-18, 25-27

c. Easter Morning The Beloved Disciple 20:4-5, 8

Peter 20:6-7

d. Resurrection Appearance by Sea The Beloved Disciple 21:7

Peter 21:7; 21:11

It has been said that the beloved disciple tends to be the first to perceive and Peter the first to act.

- 4) Is there any place within the church, either early or modern, for us to play one servant of God off against another? Why or why not?
- 5) How does Jesus address Peter and thereby address us also in these words of Scripture?

Day 13 Sunday, April 26, 2020 Matthew 28:16-20

- 1) What is striking about the reaction of the disciples in Matthew 28:17?
- 2) When we think of the cold and stubborn hearts of mankind, would we reaction any differently than the first disciples, considering all that they had been through?
- 3) In Matthew 28:18, Jesus proclaims that he has been entrusted with all authority and power form God, what does Jesus choose to do with that power in verses 19-20
- 4) In Matthew 28:19 Jesus issues the command to his church to "make disciples." According to what follows what are the two key elements that go into making a disciple of Jesus?
- 5) At the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew, we started with a long list of names within the genealogy. These genealogies were used by ancient Jews as a way of tracing their connection to the "elect and chosen people of God." By the end of the Gospel of Matthew, one no longer uses genealogies and bloodlines to trace their connection to the people of God, how does one become a part of the people of God according to Matthew 28:19?
- 6) What hope do you take for your everyday living from the closing promise of Matthew 28:20b?