



# EYEWITNESS: PART 1

## SEEING JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

### **Growth Group Questions**

**May 4, 2025**

### **“Breakfast by the Shore”**

#### **CONTEXT**

The Gospels give us two different geographical settings of post-resurrection stories. One setting relates to appearances of Jesus around or near Jerusalem which we see in Luke 24, John 20 and Matthew 28:9–10. The other appearances center around Galilee, and we read about those in Matthew 28 and John 21, as well as the reminder to the women in Mark 16:7 that Jesus had gone ahead of them and would meet them in Galilee.

It is nighttime and Peter decides to go fishing. The other six disciples who obviously didn’t have anything else to do went with him. They fished all night and caught nothing. Night and darkness are symbolic in the gospel of John. Nicodemus shows up under the cover of night to meet with Jesus. Judas leaves at night to go and do his evil work. After the resurrection, the disciples are gathered in the evening with locked doors because of their fear.

In verse 4 dawn has broken and Jesus appears on the shore. This is a new morning and time for a new teaching of Jesus. The disciples do not recognize him, but his language is interesting. The Greek word that is translated as “friends” in verse 5 can be translated “children.” It was used at times as an expression of intimacy between a parent and a child or a leader and followers. John actually uses it later in 1 John 2:18 when he is writing his young church community and calls them “children.”

When Peter and the rest of the disciples arrived on shore, they found a “charcoal fire.” This word appears only twice in the New Testament and both times in the gospel of John. The other time is in John 18:16 when Peter is standing by the fire denying that he knows Jesus. Again, another event that happens at night. Standing at that fire, Peter faced the questioning of others and failed. Now he sees a second fire that has fish and bread cooking. It is a fire that will serve as the beginning of an invitation to reestablish his relationship with Jesus.

There is breakfast for the disciples, but the supply does not appear to be enough, so Jesus tells the disciples to bring some fish from their abundant catch. The words that Jesus uses here are very similar to the words of the Lord’s Supper that we find in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, except that it is bread and fish and not bread and the cup. It also reminds us of the Road to Emmaus story

when Jesus took bread, blessed it and gave it to his traveling companions and as he broke the bread, they recognized him.

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **John 21:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.<sup>[a]</sup> It happened this way: <sup>2</sup>Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[b]</sup>), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup>“I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. <sup>6</sup>He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

<sup>7</sup>Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. <sup>8</sup>The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>9</sup>When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

### **Luke 5:4-11**

<sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” <sup>6</sup>When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” <sup>9</sup>For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup>and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” <sup>11</sup>So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

### **John 15:5**

<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

### **Ezekiel 47:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. <sup>10</sup> Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea.

### **John 13:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

## **QUESTIONS**

1. In John 21:1-14, Jesus appears for the third time to the disciples following His resurrection. Can you put yourself in the place of these disciples? What do you think they were thinking and feeling as they decided to go fishing that day in Galilee?
2. How does John 21:1-14, highlight the way in which Jesus can move us from a sense of emptiness or failure to a feeling of abundance?
3. In John 21:7, we are told that the “disciple whom Jesus loved” recognized Jesus and said, “It is the Lord!” How do you think this disciple recognized Jesus?
4. What does Jesus’ act of providing breakfast for the disciples on the beach say about His character?
5. Pastore Paul pointed out that every one of the post resurrection appearances of Jesus occurred in community, not to a single individual alone. What does that say to you?
6. In Luke 5:4-11, Peter and the other fishermen caught so many fish after doing as Jesus instructed them, that their nets began to break, and their boats began to sink. Yet, after Jesus instructed the same fishermen in John 21:1-14 to lower their nets, they caught so many fish they couldn’t haul the nets into the boat, but the nets didn’t break. What do you think is the significance of the fact that the nets didn’t break in this story?
7. Pastor Paul said that John 13:34-35, is one of our “North Stars.” What does that mean to you?

## **PASTOR PAUL’S SERMON QUESTIONS:**

1. Is there a place in your life where you need to “know” the abundance of Jesus?
2. Who could you show up for this week?

