

Breakfast First

John 21

Sunday 18th April 2021

Key Scriptures

- John 21:1-14
- Matt 28:10; Luke 5:11;
- John 13:34-35

Summary

After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples had gone to Galilee. Probably in response to Jesus' instruction to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (Matt 28:10). We find Peter and the others going fishing on the Sea of Galilee (John 21:3). Even though they were experienced fishermen they caught nothing all night. This is when Jesus comes to meet them (21:4). The disciples have been through a huge change and are needing to relearn how to be with Jesus. Jesus is getting their attention again and at this point He is concealed; the disciples do not recognise Him (21:4). Compare this with Jesus meeting Mary (20:11-16) and walking with the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:15-16, 30-31). Both examples of Jesus concealing his identity. Jesus instructs them to throw the net on the right side of the boat. At this point the disciples still do not know it is Jesus, yet they follow the instructions of this stranger and the catch is huge, a miracle. This is the moment of recognition for John who cries out "it is the Lord." When they reach the shore they find that Jesus has a fire ready with fish cooking on it and some bread. They then hear Jesus' invitation to them, "come and have breakfast." Rather than answer all their questions and provide strategy for their new reality, Jesus first invites His disciples to sit with him and share breakfast. In doing this, he is reminding His disciples that they are His family.

In first century Jewish culture, to share a meal with someone was to say to them "you belong, you are family." Table fellowship was a cultural marker and a very important aspect of the Jewish culture. When Jesus started sharing meals with those who had been cast out of society he demonstrated that table fellowship should have an open door. The invitation is there for all to respond and join Jesus' family. For some, this was too great a challenge to their comfortable social norms and they responded with angry persecution towards Jesus.

Jesus is also showing His disciples how to live their lives as his family. In John 13:34-35 Jesus commands His disciples to love each other as He has loved them. This will be their demonstration to others of Jesus' invitation to follow Him and thereby be family with Him. It is not compelling words or persuasive arguments that will demonstrate that God's kingdom has come among you. It is the people of Jesus living their lives of love towards each other that will show people Jesus' invitation.

Application

We've been through a time of huge change. We've had to relearn how to be a church family without the normal structures for meeting regularly with each other. We've been forced into isolation and connecting with each other only through technology. The Holy Spirit has been getting our attention during this time. Showing us what matters, helping us to feel afresh the importance of being family together with each other and Jesus. As the possibilities for in-person connection with people increase, we have ahead of us the opportunity to hear the Holy Spirit's invitation to a radical

demonstration of loving each other as Jesus loves us. To show the communities in which we live the love of Jesus by attending first to sharing breakfast. That is, attending first to living life as Jesus leads, intentionally reaching out to all who Jesus asks us to and inviting them to join us for breakfast, or a barbecue, or a walk, or a

Questions

1. What does it look like for your small community to respond to Jesus' invitation "come and have breakfast," to live out Jesus' command in John 13:34-35?
2. In what ways can you, as a small community, be present with people that they might feel valued, that they belong, that they are family?
3. Who is the Holy Spirit asking you, as a small community, to reach out to and invite to belong in your small community family?