

## **Revelation 1:1,9-20 Fear not - Behold**

1. What are the present fears and anxieties that are central to our culture? Our world? And you personally?

### **Read Revelation 1:1,9-20**

2. What do we learn about the circumstances of John and the churches he writes to from this opening chapter? If you were personally in these circumstances how would you feel, think, respond?

The voice is the central image that John wants us to focus upon. Not only does he mention it three times (vs. 10, 12, 15); it is also at the center of the chiasm, the v shaped structure of 7 characteristics from vs. 14-16.

3. (12) John turns to see the voice. Martin Luther expressed that the Christian faith is an acoustical affair, the most important discipline for the follower of Jesus is to listen. He went on to say that we need to stick our eyes in our ears, for the only way we will see is if we listen. How does listening to his voice enable us to see?
4. (15) His voice is like the sound of many waters. The sound of thundering waters is all encompassing, it is inescapable, it drowns out every other voice. The voice commands in vs. 17-18 that we fear not and behold. It turns out that we obey the first by obeying the second. We are led to find freedom from our fears as we are beholding him, as we are hearing his voice above every other voice. What are some of the practical ways we can hear his voice? Behold his glory?
5. Look at all the qualities of Jesus that are pictured in this vision. How would seeing this reality of who Jesus is address the fears and anxieties you explored in question 1?
6. Have you had an experience where beholding him has addressed your fears and anxieties? If you are able, share this with the others in the group.