

John 21:1-14 “The Call of the New Creation”

1. The geography of the land of Israel is key to understanding this resurrection appearance of Jesus. There is one major source of fresh water in the nation. Water runs off from the mountains in the North, collecting in the sea of galilee. Out of the bottom of the lake flows the Jordan river, travelling down the fertile Jordan valley to empty out into the dead sea where nothing lives. This geography reveals a reality we all see and experience - that life leads to death - sin and death have so marred our earthly reality that every aspect of life socially, relationally, and materially eventually unravels. Where do you see this vivid geographic picture borne out in reality?

Read Ezekiel 47:1-2; 6b-12

2. In one of the darkest times of Israel’s history God gives the prophet Ezekiel a vision of a time where there is a new source of water in the land of Israel – flowing out from the temple it runs into the dead sea and instead of life leading to death this water bring rejuvenation to even the dead sea – lush foliage, teeming aquatic life, such that fisherman cast their nets for bountiful catch. Reflecting on your answer to question 1 above, what would the unravelling of the impact of sin and death look like practically?

Read John 7:37-39

3. Jesus reflects on the prophecy from Ezekiel here. How does Jesus see the vision coming to fruition?

Read John 21:1-14

4. The Spirit has been given, descending not upon a temple of wood and stone but a temple of flesh and blood. The Spirit descends on a people, and the first thing that people do is go fishing and cast their nets for a bountiful catch. All of these passages are connected. In light of the connections you have already drawn between the vision from Ezekiel and Jesus’ words from John 7 what are followers of Jesus called to be in the world?

5. As Tim expressed in the sermon the story is told in such a way as to reveal the distinctive marks of a people who are engaged in this call. Pick one or two of these marks to reflect on how they shape us to live into the call that Jesus gives to his followers.

The five are:

A. A deep trust that Jesus has indeed risen from the dead (vs. 1, 14)

B. They are brought to a supernatural togetherness by the work of Jesus. (vs. 2)

C. A reliance upon Jesus alone (vs. 6)

D. Hold onto the complementary truths of the gospel – I am so sinful that Jesus had to die for me but so loved that he was glad to die for me. (Luke 5 reaction of Peter “depart from me a sinful man” with reaction in vs. 7) [You may wish to read Luke 5:1-11 to see the stories side by side]

E. Deep intimacy with Jesus who invites us to eat with him. (vs. 12)

Read Revelation 22:1-2

6. We will not see the fulness of the promise of Ezekiel until Jesus returns to consummate his kingdom. How does knowing that the fullness is yet to come help us to live in anticipation of this future even now?