

Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

“Jesus provides for His renewed Church” John 21; 1-14 by Norman Bonnett April 2021

We have all been through a serious time of change, of almost constant adjustment and re-planning our lives. It has been a particularly challenging period, to experience something which is always present in our lives- change.

Q1. Can you recall times of significant change - both good and bad- which have taken place in your life?

I recall going from my “heaven-on-earth” school in Cambridge to a large multi-cultural school in Huddersfield. It was a wonderful experience, but I was apprehensive!

Read the passage (perhaps together if you are in a group) and try to envisage the enormous change which had come into the lives of the disciples.

Q2. What words or expressions do you notice that help you to “enter into” this scene?

We read in the passage of seven disciples wondering where they were going, so not surprisingly, they decide to go fishing. Then they see this figure who displays some real evidence of being alive and human.

Q3. Can you pick them out?

By this particular time of the resurrection story reports had been leaked in various ways but the disciples had their doubts. Like you and me they wanted evidence, Thomas is a good example. Surely this was a dream, a vision, an hallucination but now here was the physical evidence staring at them, literally, in the eyes. “Then they KNEW it was the Lord” (verse 12).

Think for a moment of the journey through which the disciples had come with Jesus to this very point.

Q4. What events would you especially remember, healings, interactions, miracles, teachings and the crowds following Him around Galilee?

Q5. Then what about recent days in Jerusalem during the final week, when they had failed Him in various ways. How would you feel now seeing Him again, what questions would you be asking yourself?

Q6. This passage is about the provision of Jesus to those who trust in Him and follow His commands, notice the provision of bread, fish and a fire (verse 9), can you think of an example when you have been provided for in a way that you had not expected.

But now the change was colossal. They know it is the Lord! He had showed convincingly that He was, is, truly the Son of God, He had come into the world with the express purpose of bringing the offer of Salvation to you and to me.

I am still excited, after 77 years as a Christian, and I pray that you too can stand with the disciples and share that same excitement. This one event of crucifixion and resurrection, death and life, darkness and light, “changes everything.” **Q7.** What is it about the resurrection that excites you the most?

If you can find a hymn book conclude this time by reading the words of Isaac Watts’ wonderful hymn “When I survey the wondrous cross”. Particularly its concluding words:

Love so amazing, so divine

Demands my soul, my life, my all