

## RETURN TO LOVE

April 28, 2019

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### John 21:1-19

**21**After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. <sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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## REFLECT & DISCUSS

### Reflect

1. Read the scripture passage carefully and slowly. What word or image stands out to you? Why?
2. Who do you identify with in this story? Eager Peter? The one left to drag in the catch? The ones who didn't sense the abundance all around them? Why?
3. After Jesus' death and Resurrection, the disciples "go back" to what they know before they met Jesus--fishermen on the Sea of Galilee/Tiberias. What might this say about the human condition and each of us?
4. Peter denied Jesus 3 times. What does the Risen Christ show us about the way of new life in his 3-fold questioning with Peter?
5. The Risen Christ connects love for himself and feeding of his "sheep"--what does this mean for the church and people of faith? How do people need to be "fed"?
6. This "miracle of abundance" on the sea bookends the gospel nicely. After John's soaring prologue in chapter 1, the gospel kicks off with Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana--a miracle of abundance. How does our world look more like one of scarcity than of God's abundance? How might Jesus' message and ministry push us into holy abundance?

## EXTEND *New Life* THIS EASTER

### **JOIN DISCIPLES FOR HABITAT Building 36th home**

For Isaac Lameke & Estella Hamenyimana, the dream of a home to share with their family began years ago in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Faced with violence and displacement as a result of the war in their home country they have traveled through Tanzania and Knoxville before coming to Lexington in 2010. Here, they have made a home with their children Happiness (3), Ezekiel (2), Moses (1) and a member of their extended family, Odifax (17).

Work begins Wednesday, May 8.  
To look at dates, projects and to sign up visit the white board in the foyer or online at:

<https://forms.gle/Dxg5iLcKWHtcJzrR7>

Write a blessing for the family on the 2x4 frame in the foyer.



### **BABY CARE KITS**

Collecting  
April 28 – June 2

Please pack in large Ziploc and attach to diaper box (if part of the donation)

- Diapers – assorted sizes
- Baby shampoo
- Sippy cup
- Baby blanket
- Baby lotion

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### Listen Online

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