

JESUS BACK IN GALILEE– 17 DECEMBER 2022

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This week we have four stories about the disciples and Jesus after the resurrection. Matthew 28:16–20, Mark 16:14–20, Luke 24:36–53, John 21:1–25.

Read all four of these stories and try to discover/summarise the following.

- What can you say about the location?
- Which disciples are present?
- What is Jesus's message to the disciples?
- Which themes do you see in more than one gospel? How are these themes the same and how are they different?
- Do any specific details appear in multiple narratives?
- Do you see anything unique or interesting?

For both Mark and John these passages seem to come as an afterthought. Mark has this section in [[...]] because it is probably not part of the earliest version of Mark. John 20:30–31 looks like the end of the gospel, and John 21 looks to be something like an epilogue or afterword.

- What significance do these sections as 'afterthoughts' have? Are they more important, less important than other sections? Are they more interesting, less interesting, more exciting, less exciting, more ... or less ... ?

John 21

This is not the only time a gospel writer tells of the superabundant capture of fish. Read Luke 5:4-11, Jesus's first calling of disciples in Luke. There are two options for how this miracle ended up twice in the gospels:

1. It happened twice: Jesus did the miracle to call Simon Peter, and again after the resurrection.
2. John and Luke both knew of the miracle and its significance to Simon Peter. But they 'remembered' the miracle taking place in different moments in Simon Peter's life.

Think about each of these options and the two variations of the same miracle.

- What meaning would each of these have for Simon Peter, the gospel and us?
- Which do you like best, why?
- What differences are there between the two?

Some questions to ponder?

- Why do the disciples return to fishing?
- Why do the disciples listen to a random stranger's fishing advice?
- When was the last time Simon Peter saw a charcoal fire, what do you think is the significance?

- Why does Jesus want them to bring fish if he already has fish?
- What is the significance of there being exactly 153 fish?
- Why does Jesus ask Simon Peter the same(-ish) question three times?
- What on earth do verses 18 & 19 mean?