

**Discussion Questions Set #1**

“Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” (John 21:1-7)

“When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.” Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.” So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” (Exodus 32:1-6)

In service, we discussed that following Christ resurrection, the disciples faced a dilemma: how were they to follow Jesus if He was departing? The people of Israel faced a similar dilemma once Moses disappeared into a mountain top cloud; who were they now to follow?

1. Why do you think the disciples and the people of Israel were so quick to return to a “normal” mindset, even after experiencing such incredible things in the presence of God?
2. Discuss why “newness” can sometimes be off-putting. What spiritual impact might this reality cause?
3. Why do you think that picking up one’s former nets or melting down ones gold to create an idol of worship might seem fitting options when facing uncertainty?
4. Note that a “return to normal” can be both an active defiance of God (Israel) and a passive defiance of God (the disciples). What is the difference between these two applications?
5. Discuss how a “return to normal” mindset might have caused:
  - a. The people of Israel to miss the “better” that God had for them.
  - b. The disciples to miss the “better” that God had for them.
  - c. Us to miss on the “better” that God has for us.
6. Have you ever experienced the pull of a “return to normal” mindset? Discuss this experience.

**Discussion Questions Set #2**

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)

In sermon, we discussed that Jesus left His followers, and us, with some fairly simple directions on what it means to follow Him, known as the Great Commission. In short, we are called to “make disciples”, a process that includes both evangelism and discipleship to maturity.

1. What happens if we only seek to “fish for people” (engage in evangelism)? What happens if we seek only to “feed Christ’s sheep” (engage in discipleship to maturity)?
2. The resurrection of Jesus meant that transformation was necessary in the lives of those who followed Him. Why might we be reluctant to experience transformation as followers of Jesus?
3. Do you have confidence that God will complete His transformation of your life? Why or why not?