

The Resurrection in John's Gospel

Monday, 4/13/09 – Read John 20:1-10

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: This week we are going to read through and think about the accounts of the risen Jesus in the gospel of John. ... According to the account in today's reading, the first Easter encounter involving Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the "beloved disciple" was bewildering. Mary initially assumes the tomb has been vandalized and the body removed. It's a reasonable assumption, wouldn't you say? ... Sometimes extraordinary things happen in our lives but we don't initially realize their significance. Sometimes God is doing something "major" but we don't yet "get it." ... Can you think of a time when it took you awhile to catch on? What was it like before you "got it"?

Tuesday, 4/14/09 – Read John 20:11-18

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Mary Magdalene's encounter with the Risen Jesus is a moment of high drama -- the appearance of angels, Mary's not recognizing Jesus at first, and then the flood of glad realization when the Lord calls her by name. ... Take a moment and let yourself feel into the drama of this encounter. ... What do you make of the instruction: "Do not hold on to me"? ... Sometimes we do try to hold on to precious experiences. Even the magnificence of Resurrection cannot be held or possessed. We have to trust that, if we let go, the Lord will come to us again. ... The Risen Lord gives good advice: Delight in his presence when he comes but don't try to hold on. Are there some things that you have been trying to hold on to -- and you need to turn loose?

Wednesday, 4/15/09 – Read John 20:19-23

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The Risen Lord functions in unusual ways. He appears inside locked up rooms, for example. ... And he has a mission for us. We are sent by the Risen Lord in the same way that Jesus was sent by the Father. Do you think of yourself as sent by the Risen Lord? As you move through your daily activities today, remember periodically that you are sent by Jesus into this day.

Thursday, 4/16/09 – Read John 20:24-29

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: We shouldn't be too hard on Thomas. Thomas embodies and expresses the skeptic that everyone of us has inside. What's wonderful about this encounter is that God provides for Thomas what Thomas needs in order to be able to trust. ... What do you need in order to trust God, in order to trust the Risen Lord? Have you told God what you need -- as clearly and specifically as Thomas did? In your prayer today, tell God what you need in order to trust. Be as specific and precise as you can.

Friday, 4/17/09 – Read John 21:1-3

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Simon Peter was a fisherman. He wanted to go fishing. Sometimes when momentous events happen in our lives, we want to go back to the routine. We want things to get back to normal. Peter went fishing. But it was not a successful fishing trip. ... Once we have been

touched by the Risen Lord, we can never really go back to the way it was before. We are forever changed by the encounter. ... How have you been changed by the presence of the Risen Lord in your life?

Saturday, 4/18/09 – Read **John 21:4-8**

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: One of the most charming and intimate of all the accounts of the Risen Jesus is his invitation in verse 12: “Come and have breakfast.” ... What the Lord wants first from you is just ... you. God wants relationship with God’s human creatures -- with you. Like sitting down around a campfire with a beloved friend. Today hear that invitation addressed to you: “Come and have breakfast.”

Sunday, 4/19/09 – Read **John 21:9-19**

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: In John 20:21 the Risen Jesus says, “As the Father sent me, so I send you.” And in today’s reading, he says to Peter: “Feed my sheep.” ... Finally our love for God is expressed in service to God’s people. It’s easy to say that we love God; the real challenge is to express that love in service. How will you express your love for the Risen Lord this week?

My Faith Journal, April 12, 2009

Easter Sunday

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.