

**John 7:37-39** On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

**Luke 11:1-13** One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive every-one who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'"

Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

**1 Cor. 2:10b-13** The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.



## Thirsting, Believing and Asking for More

Second Saturday, November 9, 2019

### **2019-20 Theme • Drawing with Joy from the Wells of Salvation** (Is. 12:3)

The emphasis for this fall, *Deepening Over Time*, began with the life of the apostle Peter, tracing from his first encounter with Jesus the process of a deepening work of salvation. We saw how Jesus, in *daily* contact with his disciple Peter, was able to tailor his lessons to Peter's weaknesses and potential. His plan encompassed the ultimate significance of Peter's role in the kingdom. A lakeshore breakfast (Jn 21:15-17) is pivotal—a crossroad linking Peter's reality as a fisherman who had failed as a disciple and the new reality Jesus would open to him.

This encounter points to November's message in two ways. Peter was, after his encounter with Jesus, receptive to what God would ask of him, in part, because he was emptied of false confidence in his own courage and dedication. A self-constructed barrier was gone. Jesus stepped into the gap knowing that Peter could hear him from a deeper place within himself. Jesus could fulfill Peter's passion to serve him out of the one motive that mattered: under it all, Peter loved Jesus. Peter's genuine devotion to the Lord flowed from the bedrock of his heart. His vision and plans of how he would serve Jesus were fulfilled as he adopted Jesus' core passion, to feed and tend His sheep.

### **OPENING**

Peter opened himself to the true work Jesus had for him because Jesus, in his relationship with Peter, had opened an opportunity for Peter to choose him at the right time in Peter's life.

**WAITING:** The actual launching of Peter's ministry had to wait until Jesus ascended and the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit had taken place (Acts 1-2). From that point on Peter's role in establishing and leading the church rests on the freedom of the Holy Spirit to work through him. Jesus had promised that the Spirit would finish the works he, Jesus, had begun. Peter's life testifies to that reality.

### **NOVEMBER MESSAGE + John 7:37-39 and Luke 11:1-13**



### **Three Fields of Growth**

We see how Peter's life can be a template for the ways Jesus engages us in the personal discipleship called for in our lives. Jesus uses our questions to lead us to the answers He longs to give us. In today's scriptures he has identified entry points to the life God provides through Jesus: thirst, belief, the simple way of prayer to Father, and the promise of living water welling up from within us. **Asking** is the door we open in order to receive.

Today's message takes us into three fields: the ground we are on currently, the crossroads where we choose to leave some things behind, and the new ground God has for us that requires preparation. We must be willing to recognize that we, like Peter, require time out with Jesus. Only He can design our needed growth process for the new ground designed for us. What signals that He is calling us to greater depth as we draw from the wells of salvation?



## QUIET REFLECTION – Second Saturday, November 9, 2019

Thirsting, Believing, and Asking for More | *John 7:37-39, Luke 11:1-13*

These questions are meant to help you open your heart and dialog with the Lord. Before beginning ask the Lord to quiet your heart and give you freedom in sharing your thoughts and the ability to hear His counsel for you. ✎ Pray for guidance in choosing questions that are most relevant to your life at this time, and to what the Lord is doing in your life. (On page for there is space to draw your responses.)

- 1 From this morning's teaching, what was most significant for you? Did you receive new light on something in your life?

### Three Fields of Growth handout: Current Ground ~ Crossroads ~ New Ground

- 1 **Current Ground** | Do you identify with the life of Peter prior to his meeting with Jesus at the shore? After that meeting? What encourages you about his relationship with Jesus?
- 2 **Opening the door** | Ask the Lord to show you what is on His heart—what does He want access to in your life? Ask Him how He wants to bless you in this area.
- 3 **Crossroads** | In your life right now, is there any indication that God wants access to your heart or life about something that troubles you, or, where you yearn for more from your life with the Lord?

### The Creativity of the Holy Spirit

Quiet reflection—also called journaling, is meant to extend beyond processing of feelings and thoughts. One of its main values is in giving God time to speak to us! For example:

#### ✎ Listen

Is He asking questions of you?  
Is He providing much needed counsel—His interpretation of your inner thoughts?

#### ✎ Dialogue

Conversation with the Lord brings much understanding and draws us closer to Him.  
~ Invite Him to speak to you. Wait in the quiet. Respond. Wait again, etc.  
~ Write a letter, poem or psalm to express your heart.

#### ✎ Images that Speak

~ Draw a picture or symbol of what is on your heart.  
~ Ask Him for an image that depicts how He sees you or something you're concerned about at this time.

#### ✎ Editing Your Story

Ask Him to bring to light any assumptions or perceptions embedded in your heart and story that are not true. What is true that He would write in place of what is written there?

#### ✎ Quiet

Invite the Lord to minister to you in the quiet. Whether with words or in the simple awareness that He is present with you, let Him "restore your soul" in whatever way you need. • You may want to journal and reflect on this time later.

- You may need help in naming what it is you're feeling. Ask Him to define what it is that concerns you.
  
- Take time to write or pray out what's on your heart, including your awareness of how your life is affected, in a positive or negative way.

Examples of areas where change might be needed—opened up to the Lord for help and direction—for His PROCESS of moving your forward.

- a need
- a dream or aspiration
- thirst for God (in what way?)
- a dulling / stop growing in your spiritual life
  
- living out of fear
- pain / emotional or other
- sin vs. obedience
  
- encouragement: we encounter the same issues and each time He comes into the process in a different way—the process of **steps** build on each other in a positive way

### Deepening Process

Are you aware of a deep area in your life or history where you could invite the Lord to begin a **redemptive process**, for example:

- ▣ to heal an inner wound
  
- ▣ to restore hope where you have lost hope
  
- ▣ in a perceived or true “failure,” where you need to see your way forward.
  
- ▣ process of maturing for the sake of new ground – something God is preparing for you to do

**Stepping Out** - Paul, Diane, Jack, and Chris each shared about areas in their lives where God asked them, in some way, to “get out of the boat” and trust His leading on new ground (i.e., walk on water).

Ask the Lord if there are any steps of trust or faith that He has for you.

If you sense that He does want you to step out in some way,

- what do you see as barriers?
  
- what do you see as opportunities to serve Him more meaningfully?

## Rivers of Living Water Flowing from Within

Below is Jesus' statement about himself on the holiest day of the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. How do you relate to Jesus' reference to our thirst for what He offers?

- ▣ *“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

- ▣ The I Corinthians passage on the right was written by Paul. Ask the Lord to speak to you about how He would enrich your knowledge of the Spirit's work in your life. Who is the Spirit to you? What **more** do you desire?

*I Corinthians 2:10b -14*

*The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*

*What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.*

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### Listening ▪ Reflecting

Whatever is on your heart (whether or not it's related to today's message) share it with the Lord. ☩ In the quiet, ask what is on His heart for you today, or in this season of your life.

## DURING COMMUNION

If there is **one particular thing** you would like to commit to the Lord today—something He's shown you during this time of reflection, you may want to bring it to the altar before or following Communion.

~ Before or following Communion you may kneel at the altar rail and give to the Lord anything that has come up during the morning: commit something to Him, seek forgiveness, release Him to work in a new way in your life, etc.

~ After Communion teams of prayer ministers will be available to stand with you in prayer. Just tell them what you want to bring to the Lord and they will agree in prayer as God leads. (This is not meant to be lengthy prayer ministry. You will also receive prayer in your prayer triplet following Communion.)



# Three Fields of Growth

Thirsting, Believing, and Asking for More

## CURRENT GROUND

**Peter's "current ground": reality of self-deception / weaknesses / denial and loss of Jesus**

Our habits and patterns: healthy and unhealthy

Outgrowth of the space : God would do new things in and through us

Thirst for more / need for more

Acknowledgment of the Lord prompting us to deal with discomfort in our lives

**Our asking**

**God's opportunities**

## CROSSROADS

**Access to our hearts**



*Come have your breakfast  
John 21:12*

A birthing of parts of ourselves  
Reckoning with God  
Unfolding of new vision / assignment  
Drawing more deeply on God  
New patterns replace old habits  
Opening our lives as He asks us to  
Spiritual maturing / equipping

**Our Yes**

**Believe and Trust**

## NEW GROUND

**Flow of our growth in Him**

Deepened trust in the Lord

Use of what He's formed in us  
at the crossroad

Free of barriers He has removed

"Tending" valuable gifts within,  
brought forth through God's refining

**Freer to draw on the Holy Spirit**

"Wind" going where He will

Empowered for His new field of labor

Our deepening includes the work of  
discernment that only comes from Him