Last week Daphne wrote about the breakfast Jesus cooked for 7 disciples on the shore of Lake Galilee after his Resurrection.  It is the final chapter (21) of John’s Gospel.  Daphne reminded us how Jesus transformed the disciples’ mood after an unsuccessful all-night fishing trip.  He made their endeavours successful, and met their physical needs and their emotional needs.  He particularly singled out Peter who had denied Him three times before the Crucifixion, gave him three opportunities to confirm his love for Jesus, and also gave him the amazing responsibility of shepherding the first Christians.

This week I want to complete this breakfast story by looking at the other personal message Jesus gave, about John, the young disciple who was more aware than any of the disciples of the greatness of Christ’s love.  Jesus told Peter that John was destined for a very long life.  We know that he looked after Mary, the mother of Jesus, in Jerusalem for about 20 years, then after her death moved to Ephesus.  Apart from a few years of exile on the island of Patmos, he spent the rest of his life in Ephesus.  In fulfilment of the words of Jesus, he probably lived on until the early years of the 2nd Century, when he would have been in his 90s.

I like to think of John writing (or probably dictating) his Gospel at a very great age in his room on the hill near the Eastern edge of Ephesus.  He had spent so many years reflecting upon all the events he had witnessed as a young man in Palestine.  From all that he had seen and heard, he selected with the help of the Holy Spirit those key events and important sayings from the life of Christ that he wanted to leave behind for later believers like us.  So we have the great “I AM” sayings, the Word made flesh, the teaching at the Last Supper, all culminating in the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus.

John then has to finish the Gospel.  What should he put in the last chapter?  John decides to tell us about the last time he and six other disciples were Eating Together with Jesus.  It would been a very special meal, possibly the only time that Jesus cooked for the disciples.  He tells us about the way he and his friends were only successful in their work when they followed the instructions of Jesus.  He tells us about the way Jesus had time for them individually.  He tells us that Jesus can always be recognised when Christians meet together and eat together in memory of Jesus.  May this be true for all of us.

Finally, John assures us that all the words in his Gospel are true.  At this time the leaders of Ephesus were planning the construction of the library of Celsus, which would hold 12,000 scrolls.  John therefore ends his wonderful Gospel with this very personal comment: *Jesus did many other things as well.  If all of them were recorded, I imagine the world itself wouldn’t have enough room for the scrolls that would be written. (John 21: 25, Common English Bible 2011).*

*Produced by Glenn Evans on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  Holy Habits is "an adventure in Christian discipleship", based on Luke's picture of the early church in Acts 2:42-47.  Find out more* [*here*](https://www.brfonline.org.uk/collections/holy-habits)*.*