

Finding Safety & Satisfaction

Small group questions

John 6: 16 – 29

- 1 Recap last week. Feeding 5000 men (plus women and children). Jesus retreats on his own to pray (Matthew 14:23), because he perceives the people want to make him King (v15). The 'sign' of the feeding is explained (vv26 et seq). Now John reveals a further 'sign' – the fifth in his Gospel.
- 2 **Read John 6: 16-21** It is dark. There is a storm (no big deal to the disciples who are fishermen). Yet the disciples are terrified. Why?
- 3 Jesus speaks to the disciples 'It is I' or translated elsewhere 'I am'. Refer to *Exodus 3:14*. Consider the implications.
- 4 Jesus offers safety. He is in control of their destiny. Jesus has control on all the forces of Creation – refer *Job 9:7 & Psalm 107: 29–30* (set out on p4 of the sermon)
- 5 Jesus is the Son of God, Creator, King, Prophet and Saviour. Consider and discuss.
- 6 **Read John 6: 22-29**. The crowd is looking for Jesus. Why?
- 7 Following the sign:
 - a. The sign of walking on water, refer p5 of sermon and 5, above
 - b. The sign of feeding the large crowd, also refer p5 of sermon
- 8 **Read John 6: 28-29** again. Also read **John 6: 35**. Then read **John 11:25-26** (set out at p6 of sermon)
- 9 How can we be certain of eternal life with Jesus in heaven?

FINDING SAFETY AND SATISFACTION

John 6:16-29

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, **17** where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. **18** A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. **19** When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. **20** But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." **21** Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

22 The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. **23** Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after

the Lord had given thanks. **24** Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

26 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. **27** Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

FINDING SAFETY AND SATISFACTION **John 6:16-29**

1. When disaster strikes

Natural disasters have a way of clarifying what really matters

ABC radio, speaking to people in pathway of Debbie

Two questions:
are you safe?

Do you have food? (has it gone off ie fridge & electricity; has it run out; can you get new supplies)

Reflected in preparations: boarding up windows, sandbags, safe places; stockpiling food

Two questions put to us in John 6:16-29:
Are you safe?

Do you have food?

Jesus asking much deeper questions: can you sustain eternal life?

2. 16-21 Terror in the storm

First section all about people who find themselves in a very unsafe situation

a. The journey of the disciples 16a-17a

for them a routine journey, they were experienced fisherman

Set off across the lake

Jesus in the mountain praying; go ahead of him

Kilometres out to sea

b. The terror of the disciples 17b-19

Yet some ominous indications

i) evening: light is fading

ii) then the setting of the sun turns to darkness

iii) wind blows up; ocean begins to rise & fall; boat begins to rock and then roll

They are terrified

Only been truly terrified on rare occasions
Some spring to mind

The day Matthew almost drowned at Byron Bay 6 yr old swept out by a rip

Ocean: once I reached Matthew; realized I was no match for the oceans power; fading fast

The night two pimps came to my door late at night after they misunderstood some advertising for a guest preacher

Darkness: menacing visitors; darkness the time they chose for a reason; no witnesses; unobserved

The day my wife Kim was diagnosed with cancer; horror of watching her suffer, of losing her, being alone

Underlying fear: death: all of us know we are no match: can't bring dead back; faced the illness of a loved one; the ravages of some diseases, even old age can't be stopped: powerless, overwhelmed

iv) they see Jesus walking on the water initially not so reassuring
freak out: may be a ghost or a water spirit said to live on the lake

c. The words & works of Jesus 20

- i) I am: name of God in the OT
When Moses had to face Pharaoh, what name will I say sent me? I am
- ii) Do not fear (God to Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Daniel)
- iii) Who walks on water? Job 9:
Job 9:7 *He speaks to the sun and it does*

not shine; he seals off the light of the stars.

8 *He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.*

iv) Immediately come to safety (Psalm 107)
Describes sailors heading out to sea and a mighty storm blowing up

29 *He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. 30 They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.*

d. The response of the disciples 21a

They receive him; take him into the boat
Contrast with 5:43: Jewish leaders

43 *I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me*

(they receive when he speaks God's name)

1:12 *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*

3. 22-29 Hunger in the desert

a. The crowd eagerly looking for Jesus

22-24

Not any crowd: same one witnessed the miracle of the feeding
Watching closely
Motivated: they saw the miracle, want more

b. Follow the sign 25-29

Signs point somewhere
They are not following the signs: like standing out on the Bruce Hwy under a sign to Brisbane and thinking you must be in the city: have to follow the sign
Their failure: chasing temporary satisfaction
Understandable. If we don't eat we die
Jesus' offer: food that sustains eternal life

If you follow the sign of walking on the water to the intended goal
Recognise Jesus as God himself; your creator; the one who is in control of all the forces we are no match for

If you follow the sign of the miracle of feeding people in the desert
It is pointing to the God who wants you to share in eternal life
To provide you with eternal security
Where do you find this kind of food

In Jesus: God wants you to believe in Jesus
To listen to him speak; embrace his promises; turn from way living to follow him

4. Finding lasting safety & satisfaction

Two episodes in Jesus life:
walking on the water; feeding with bread
two issues raised: lasting safety & true satisfaction;
Are you safe? Can you sustain life?
One problem: death
One response: turn to Jesus
Expressed in two ways: receive him; believe in him
Ie hear his word and trust it, receive his promises; turn to him to follow him

He is the one who is in control of the forces that are beyond us and threaten us: violent weather, deepest darkness; death itself

Proven by his resurrection: took on the force we can't stop and defeated it
Invites us to share in his resurrection life
Promises to feed us with the food of eternal life:

His death for us on the cross, body broken,
blood shed, receive that done on your behalf
Eternal life
Raised up the last day
Jesus remains in us, securing and satisfying
our deepest needs

Just over a year ago, Kim & I were both
terrified: ovarian cancer is a fearful diagnosis
and a threatening disease
Kim calculating all the things she would miss
out on; all the things I stood to lose
Through all the grief and fear we realized
again she would not lose anything ultimately,
would gain eternal life:

Jesus:

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone
who believes in me will live, even though they
die; **26** and whoever lives by believing in me
will never die. Do you believe this?"*

"What must we do to do the works God
requires?"

Jesus reduces it to just one work

Do you know the answer?

Have you found the answer?

Have you received the answer for yourself?

If never known what God wants from you; if
never done the work God required?
Invite you to do the work that God requires
today.