

April 7, 2019am – Walking With Jesus (Gospel of John)

Pt. 14 – John 6:1-21 – *Jesus Meets Our Needs & Calms Our Fears*

YouTube Video 42:46 - 49:22 The Gospel of John <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47OkuvT5JFo&t=218s>

John 6:1-21...

¹ After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). ² And a huge crowd was following Him because they saw the signs that He was performing by healing the sick. ³ So Jesus went up a mountain and sat down there with His disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, a Jewish festival, was near. ⁵ Therefore, when Jesus looked up and noticed a huge crowd coming toward Him, He asked Philip, **“Where will we buy bread so these people can eat?”** ⁶ He asked this to test him, for He Himself knew what He was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread wouldn’t be enough for each of them to have a little.” ⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, ⁹ “There’s a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish—but what are they for so many?” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said, **“Have the people sit down.”** There was plenty of grass in that place, so they sat down. The men numbered about 5,000. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks He distributed them to those who were seated—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were full, He told His disciples, **“Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted.”** ¹³ So they collected them and filled 12 baskets with the pieces from the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign He had done, they said, “This really is the Prophet who was to come into the world!” ¹⁵ Therefore, when Jesus knew that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He withdrew again to the mountain by Himself. ¹⁶ When evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. Darkness had already set in, but Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ Then a high wind arose, and the sea began to churn. ¹⁹ After they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea. He was coming near the boat, and they were afraid. ²⁰ But He said to them, **“It is I. Don’t be afraid!”** ²¹ Then they were willing to take Him on board, and at once the boat was at the shore where they were heading.

Some of the following is adapted from Adrian Rogers “Heaven’s Bread for Earth’s Hunger”.

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Have you ever had to sit at an airport waiting for a plane and just sit back and watch people go past. Have you ever done that, looked at people? Don’t tell me God doesn’t have a sense of humor. Just watch them. They are so different. But I’ll tell you one thing that is common about all human beings;

We all have needs, we all have fears..

Schopenhauer was a brilliant man. He was a philosopher. Here’s what he said toward the close of his life:

“Life is a curse of endless cravings and endless unhappiness.”

How would you like to have that for a philosophy? That’s what he said, “Life is a curse [not a blessing, a curse] of endless cravings and endless unhappiness.” Now he was a philosopher. Pascal put it another way. He said, *“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man, which only God can fill through Jesus Christ.”* How right he was. How wrong Schopenhauer was because he did not understand the Lord Jesus”. (A Rogers)

¹ After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). ² And a huge crowd was following Him because they saw the signs that He was performing by healing the sick. ³ So Jesus went up a mountain and sat down there with His disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, a Jewish festival, was near. ⁵ Therefore, when Jesus looked up and noticed a huge crowd coming toward Him, He asked Philip, ***“Where will we buy bread so these people can eat?”*** ⁶ He asked this to test him, for He Himself knew what He was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered, *“Two hundred denarii worth of bread wouldn’t be enough for each of them to have a little.”*

Bread for The Body Jesus Meets Our Need?

There is no problem too big for God to solve.

“Here was a problem. A great multitude. There’s no bread out there. There’s no food for them. And so, Jesus is asking Philip a question. Jesus said, “Philip, what are we going to do? How are we going to feed these people?” Point: Jesus was not asking advice. Jesus never asked advice for anyone about anything in the true sense of the word. I love what Corrie Ten Boom said: *“There’s no panic in heaven; only plans.”* The Bible says here that Jesus knew what He would do. And Jesus was not wanting to learn anything about Philip. He knew all men. He knew what was in Philip’s heart. He knows what’s in your heart. What He wanted was for Philip to learn something about God. And I want you to learn something about God and that is this:

That there’s no problem too big for God to solve.

Now Jesus asked Philip, “How are we going to feed these people?” He began to calculate the costs. There were five thousand men, then there are the women, then there are the children, and how much food it would take. And so he says, *“Well Lord, if You were to give everybody a mouthful, it would take, ah, the wages of a laboring man for a year.”* Phillip unfortunately at this moment came to the conclusion that the situation is hopeless. He calculated, but he did not come to the right conclusion because he left something out of the equation. What did he leave out? God. Now there’s no problem too big for God to solve. You take the problem that you have right now. Think of it. Got it? All right. Now double it. Did you double it? Double it again. Now I want to ask you this question: Is that big to God?

No, absolutely not. He may not solve it the way you want it solved, but I’m telling you there is no problem too big for God to solve. And if you’re acting like God is dead or God is out of business, or if you’re like Philip and only calculating, if you are a feeler or a figurer rather than a faither, repent of it and believe this: Number one: There is no problem too big for God to solve”. (A. Rogers)

Andrew on the other hand was a man who looked for an answer and then brought the little lad with the lunch to Jesus

John 6:8-13...

⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, ⁹ *“There’s a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish—but what are they for so many?”* ¹⁰ Then Jesus said, ***“Have the people sit down.”*** There was plenty of grass in that place, so they sat down. The men numbered about 5,000. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks He distributed them to those who were seated—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were full, He told His disciples, ***“Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted.”*** ¹³ So they collected them and filled 12 baskets with the pieces from the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten.

Second point: There is never a person too small for God to use.

“Now here’s a little lad and a little lunch. Now it was meager in quality because they were barley loaves. That’s the coarsest of bread. It was meager in quantity because there were just a, a few biscuits and a couple of sardines. Now what was the recipe for this banquet? All right. Remember, there’s no problem too big for God to solve. Remember, there’s no person too small for God to use. Here’s a little boy’s lunch and he gives it to Jesus. Let me give you some words that start with the letter T so you can remember them. Here’s the recipe for a miracle.” (A. Rogers)

Number 1: it was transferred to Christ. He gave everything to Christ.

“This little lad gave up his lunch. Now you’ve got to, you’ve got to be a pretty good little boy to give your lunch to Jesus. But he just turned it over. It was **transferred** to Christ. It was **taken** by Christ. It was **touched** by Christ. Jesus took it, touched it and blessed it with His magnificent hands and, therefore, God enjoys taking insignificant things and persons and using them for His glory. The widow’s mite, David and his sling, Dorcas’ needle. Here’s a little lad and his lunch. You know how He does that? He takes ordinary people, does extraordinary things with ordinary people, and then God gets the glory. You see, this could not be explained apart from God.

Now don’t you insult God by saying God cannot use you. There’s no person too small for God to use. God used a little boy and his little paper bag, his little lunch there with his biscuits and sardines. Think about it. God can use you. Listen. God can use you. God can use you now. God can use you where you are. God can use you with what you have and you must say amen. Let’s try it again. God can use you. God can use you where you are. God can use you with what you have. Say it, God can use me.

Number 2: It was transformed by Christ.

¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks He distributed them

I read a story a long time ago about a violinist who was in New Jersey. He was going to play a concert. And, people were talking about the violin as much as they were the violinist, though he was a great, magnificent concert violinist. He stood up and began to play that violin, and you could hear the birds singing in the trees, you could hear laughter of little children, you could hear babbling brooks, you could hear the wind going through the forest. You could hear it all as he played the violin. And the people gave round after round of applause. And then he took the violin and broke it over his knee. Smashed it. They gave a gasp. He said, “Don’t worry. It was only a little fiddle. It was just cheap.” He said, ‘I just wanted to show you it’s not so much the instrument as it is the one who holds the instrument.’ And so it is with you. God can take our lives and we just transferred it to our Lord. It’ll be touched by our Lord. There’s never a problem too big for God to solve. There’s never a person too small for God to use. And there’s never a spiritual hunger too deep for Jesus to satisfy”. (A. Rogers)

Anchor in the Storm

John 6:14-21...

*¹⁴ When the people saw the sign He had done, they said, “This really is the Prophet who was to come into the world!” ¹⁵ Therefore, when Jesus knew that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He withdrew again to the mountain by Himself. ¹⁶ When evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. Darkness had already set in, but Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ Then a high wind arose, and the sea began to churn. ¹⁹ After they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea. He was coming near the boat, and they were afraid. ²⁰ But He said to them, “**It is I. Don’t be afraid!**” ²¹ Then they were willing to take Him on board, and at once the boat was at the shore where they were heading.*

The Many Adventures of Winnie the Poo 1977 – full movie Piglet fearful in the water
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwkNDtc7gEA> 36:40 - 36:54

Did you know, some 365 times in the Bible—one time for every day of the year—God has told us not to be afraid. In one way or another, He said “be not afraid,” or “fear not.” 365 times He tells us not to be afraid. The devil is the *sinister minister of fear*; but our Lord tells us not to be afraid.

The crowds were clamoring after him because of the miracles that he had done. They wanted to make Him a king. But he had no interest in being that kind of a king, so Jesus withdrew Himself up to a mountain to pray to get away from the clamoring miracle mongers. And He sent the disciples down to the sea to go across the sea of Galilee.

And the Bible says, “**suddenly the wind arose.**” Have you ever been there? Everything seems to be wonderful, everything seems to be beautiful. You’re sailing along, you’re like the disciples were that night they were so full of joy and peace. They’d seen their master feed five thousand. They were filled with the sense of exhilaration and power. After all, they were following Him and He was a miracle worker. Besides that they’d eaten and they were filled with bread and fish. And then it happened - the winds become boisterous and greedy waves reached up to pull them down to devour them and water now is filling the boat. Now the wind is contrary, the moon is hidden. It is dark. As a matter of fact, the Bible teaches that it’s the darkest hour of the night. And they’re rowing and their backs are aching. Their hands are paralyzed with fear, but they can’t stop rowing. They’re right out in the middle of the sea. They rowed for two or three miles against that gail. They can’t go back and it’s difficult to go forward. It’s too far to swim to the shore. And the shore line is lost in the inky blackness and they’re filled with despair. They’re going to find out that **Jesus is God’s answer to man’s despair**. Maybe you’ve been there. Maybe you’re not there. Maybe everything is fine for you. Maybe it is smooth sailing for you right now. If so, just wait, just wait. I mean sooner or later you’re going to find the winds going to begin to blow and things are going to seem to reverse on you. If you’re having smooth sailing now, I’m grateful. I want you to enjoy it. But I want to give you some anchors that’ll help you to ride out the storm. When the storm comes, there’s five things I want you to be able to say, to find out that Jesus is God’s answer to man’s despair.

Anchors for the Soul

First Anchor of the Soul: I am Governed by His Providence.

This storm did not take the wave walker, the Lord Jesus by surprise. Are you telling me the One who had the power to still the waves and walk on water was surprised that this storm came up? He’s the one who created Galilee so long ago. The Bible tells us over in Matthew chapter fourteen verse twenty two, “**He instructed His disciples**” to go and get in the ship. They were not there because they were out of the will of God. They were there because they were in the will of God. And perhaps, you’re right now in the eye of the storm, that’s right now. It looks like your little boat is sinking. Right now the icy water is reaching up for you. Right now it’s so dark you cannot see your hand before your face. Right now every wind seems to be contrary to you. I want to tell you something friend, there is nothing that comes to you that He does not cause or allow. One way or the other, His providence is there not a drop of water in the sea of Galilee was there without His permission. So put it down first of all, I am governed by His providence. Whether I can see it, whether I can understand it or not, it is a fact that God has not relinquished His rule upon His universe.

Second Anchor of the Soul. I am Growing by His Plan.

I am governed by His providence. I am growing by His plan. What is God’s plan for you? God wants to enlarge you not indulge you. God is not interested in just making you happy and healthy as He is holy. And so God will put you into trouble. The Lord Jesus engineered these problems for His disciples, because he wants to develop us. The very hairs of your head are numbered. You’re not an incident, you’re not accident. He doesn’t love us all, He loves us each. He was watching them right in the eye of the storm. He was there. They couldn’t see Him, but He could see them.

Thurd Anchor of the Soul: I am Gladdened by His Presence

I am governed by His providence. I am growing by His plan. I am gladdened by His presence.

Look if you will in verse seventeen. The Bible says, “And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.” But then down to verse 20, “**But he saith unto them, “here I am, be not afraid.**” Now it’s the fourth hour when Jesus does this. The fourth hour is the hour between three and six am. It’s the darkest hour of the night. And in the darkest hour Jesus came. Question, why did He not come sooner? Was He cruel? Was He just wanting them to suffer? I can imagine them there with there backs aching. Looking into the mouth of a watery grave there asking, where’s Jesus? Where is Jesus?

If He could feed five thousand, where is Jesus? He had His eye on them all the time. He’s praying for them all of the time. He had not forgotten them. You know, the problem was not that He had forgotten them, they had forgotten Him, in the real sense of the word. By the way, just put in your margin here again.

Mark 6:51,52... *⁵¹ Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. They were completely astounded, ⁵² because they had not understood about the loaves. Instead, their hearts were hardened.*

Remember when he fed the five thousand, what was the miracle of the loaves. He fed five thousand. Now here they are, they've seen Him feed the five thousand and how many baskets full were left over? How many Twelve, so here's every disciple with a basket of bread right at his feet. I mean there right between his feet. Here is a basket of bread, one basket for every disciple. And the Bible says they forgot all about it. They forgot the miracle of the loaves. That's the reason friend you need more than miracles to live on. You need Jesus. How easily we forget miracles and here they are saying again give us another miracle, give us another miracle. But what they needed was not a miracle they needed the miracle worker, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Now He waited for awhile before He came to them. He waited, because he came to them strategically at exactly the right time.

Fourth Anchor for the Soul: I am Guarded by His Power.

"Notice what He says, in verse 20: ***"It is I; be not afraid"*** (John 6:20). I don't know who first said this, but he said a mouthful when he said, *"The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you."* That's good. The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you. That's everlastingly true. You see? Jesus instructed them ***"Go over to the other side."*** God has a plan for you. Jesus did not lead these disciples into disaster. He said, *"Go over."* And, when He comes to them, He says, "I am; be not afraid, be of good cheer. *I AM.*" Now, "Be not afraid, *I AM.*" When He says the word *I AM*, what does He mean by *I AM*? Well, in verse 20—look at it: *"It is I"* (John 6:20). Do you see that in verse 20? Well, in the Greek, it just literally says, *"I AM."* *"It is I"* is the way we read it in the King James; but it literally says, *"I AM."* And *I AM* is the sacred name for deity. It means He is the Almighty, the Everlasting. It's Him saying, "Look, *I AM* that *I AM* that *I AM.*" He is the great *I AM*. "I was in existence when this thing was not even a vapor, this Sea of Galilee. I am the great *I AM.*" (A Rogers)

And here's the last and final anchor of the soul

Fifth Anchor for the Soul: I am Guided by His Purpose.

"God has not promised you smooth sailing, He has promised you a safe landing. He said, go over to the other side. Now look if you will in **John 6:21...** ***"²¹ Then they were willing to take Him on board, and at once the boat was at the shore where they were heading."*** There were two miracles. He suspends the law of gravity, but also over rules the laws of time and space. Just like that, they're there. I mean, here they are rowing, their backs aching. Their brows mingle with perspiration and sea water. When Jesus comes aboard immediately. There they are at the shore. What does that mean? It means He has a purpose. He'll see you to the shore. Now Andrew Murray said this, *God is willing to assume the full responsibility for the life totally yielded to Him.* He brought them to the destination. You may have trouble, you may have tears and heart aches but I'm going to promise you something on the authority of the word of God. You are created to be like Jesus. And ***"all things will work together for good to those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose."*** One of these days one of these days your destiny will be fulfilled. For the Bible says in **Philippians 1:6...** ***"He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it"***. And let me tell you something, folks, if you're in trouble right now, His eyes on you. He's praying for you. He will come to you and I can promise you this, He is going to see you through. Did you hear me? I'm not promising. I'm repeating a promise. He said. ***"I will never leave thee or forsake thee."*** He will see you through and one of these days, soon and very soon, He is going to step down from the mountain of His glory. And then walking on water will He like child's play because He'll be stepping on the clouds. And He's coming to us. As the barometer is falling and the winds are whipping and the storms are coming. And we say what is the world coming to? It's coming to Jesus because Jesus is coming to this world. And He's going to step out of the glory, with the rainbow wrapped around His shoulders. And with victory on His face as the great I Am and the trumpet will sound. And our little ship will leave the sea of time and immediately we'll be on the shores of eternity. When He comes. When He comes. He is the great I am. What a Savior". (A Rogers)

Key Points:

There is never a problem too big for God to solve,

There is never a person too small for God to use,

Recipe for a miracle:

It was transferred to Christ,

It was transformed by Christ.

- **First Anchor of the Soul: I am Governed by His Providence.**
- **Second Anchor of the Soul: I am Growing by His Plan.**
- **Third Anchor of the Soul: I am Gladdened by His Presence**
- **Fourth Anchor of the Soul: I am Guarded by His Power,**
- **Fifth Anchor of the Soul: I am Guided by His Purpose.**