

BIG SEA, LITTLE BOAT

John 6:1-21

I. A PIECE OF CAKE

- A. *Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a multitude was coming to him, Jesus said to Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" (John 6:5)*
- B. Blind Spots.
 - 1. All they could see was the crowd. Five thousand hungry, needy people pressing in on them.
 - 2. All they could see was the storm. The sky grows dark, the sea roars, the wind blows and the waves beat against the boat.
- C. Four Solutions:
 - 1. *"Send them away."* Ignore the problem.
 - 2. *"Buy themselves something to eat."* Pass the buck.
 - 3. *"There is a lad here."* Grab at straws.
 - 4. *"And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke the loaves..."* Give it to God.

II. TIDBITS INTO A TIDAL WAVE

- A. *"Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost" (6:12).*
- B. We're All in the Same Boat.
 - 1. Jesus comes to us, takes our meager resources, blesses and breaks them and, miracle of miracles, there is wonderful abundance.
 - 2. "The Christian faith is about the mystery of being met by Jesus, and being encountered, blessed, reassured, and fed." (Willimon)
- C. Waste Management.
 - 1. What do we do with the leftovers?
 - 2. What about life-waste? When we get to the end of the day, the end of the month, the end of the year, or the end of our lives, how much of our life has been wasted?

III. PANIC ATTACK

- A. *"It is I; do not be afraid" (6:20).*
- B. The Most Common Commandment.
 - 1. It's not to be more loving. It's not to avoid pride. It's not about guarding purity.
 - 2. Fear not. Do not be afraid.
- C. Fear Will Cause:
 - 1. Loss of Self-Esteem. Avoidance kills confidence and self-esteem.
 - 2. Loss of Destiny. If you live in fear, you will never experience the potential God has for you.
 - 3. Loss of Joy. Have you ever met a truly happy, worried person?
 - 4. Loss of Intimacy. You play the quiet game in all your relationships.
 - 5. Fear Gets Passed on from Generation to Generation.

Prayer Concerns: *Burney Biesel, Mac Kerr, Jane Lipford, Joe McDowell, Anne Miller, Mildred Sentell, Gerald Borden, Sarah Clark, Richard Cole, Cledus Creel, Jimmy Eubanks, Nancy Gunnels, Jeff Joyner, Carolyn Kimbrell, Linda Lindner, Van Lynch, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Judy Owen, David Ray Petrie, Patrick Ramage, Bob Sparks, Lloyd Watson, Dr. Nabhan & Dr. Choueiry & children ...*

Christian Sympathy is extended to *Jimmy Scott and family* in the death of his son, *Kyle Scott*, who was killed on Sunday, July 23.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Our Father, it's that time when we're asked to look back over the day, the week, the year, and try to figure out where we have come from and where we are going. It's time for sifting through the things we have done and the things we have left undone for a clue to who we are and who we're becoming. But we avoid the deep thoughts. When we're with other people, we usually talk about almost anything except what really matters to us, except for our own lives, except for what is going on inside. We pass the time of day. We chatter. We turn on the television. We ask about the weather. But no one sees the storm clouds gathering and the wind blowing in our lives. No one sees what a roaring sea we are on.

It's a big sea and we are in such a small boat, and we're afraid that we won't make it. We need a strength beyond our strength to pull us through. We need a wisdom beyond our wisdom to lead us forward. We need a love beyond our ability to love to keep our hearts alive. So we come to you. Feed our hungry hearts. Calm the raging sea. Help us to feel your presence and know your peace. This is our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

JOHN 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a multitude followed him, because they saw the signs which he did on those who were diseased. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a multitude was coming to him, Jesus said to Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" This he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii, would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a lad here who has five barely loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign which he had done, they said, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!"

Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea rose because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat. They were frightened, but he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 6: We will resume our regular worship schedule with two worship services (8:30 and 10:40 a.m.). Sermon: *I Am the Bread of Life*. Scripture reading: *John 6:24-35*. On the Radio: *I Believe in Life Everlasting*. Scripture reading: *Romans 8:31-39*.