

Sunday School Notes for 26 February (John 6:15-21): Jesus is in control

This story is like a sandwich-filling! It is tucked in between two halves of the discussion of Jesus as the Bread of Life.

The people who were fed were so thrilled at the thought of a leader who could fill their stomachs that they wanted to make Jesus King (in Herod's place). But Jesus knew this was the devil once again offering him an easy route to power. Jesus knew he must die as a common convict, not as a rebel king. His kingship would come when he died without having committed any sin and rose again as the king of all the earth..

So, instead of allowing the crowd to get its way, he went up the mountain to pray just as he always did. And, of course this is how we should live when we face any problems.

Everyone probably thought Jesus would come to Capernaum in one of the other boats from Tiberias. Meanwhile, when the disciples were about 5 or 6 kms over the lake, a storm hit them – storms like this were typical of the Sea of Galilee.. It was dark by this time and they were struggling to make any headway. Suddenly they saw a ghostly figure walking across the waves. They were terrified! Then Jesus called to them, "Do not be afraid. It is I." They took him into the boat, and in a couple of moments they were safe ashore. John's story stops there as he simply wanted to show Jesus' power.

However, Matthew (14:28) records an extra bit of the story. Peter often acted without thinking and he was so sure that Jesus could give him the power to walk on water that he asked for permission to walk to Jesus. All went well until he got distracted by his fear of the waves and forgot to trust. Then Peter could walk no further. Yet, despite his failure, Jesus rescued him.

We are like those disciples. We want to handle things our way and forget that Jesus is in charge of everything. But we should be trusting Jesus to deal with our fears too. The people who came to find him the next day were not told of this special episode. This was a

special message for those who were followers of Jesus. However, they had to hear this message more than once before they really believed that Jesus was in control of everything.

The disciples had many struggles ahead and they needed this truth. So do we! Remember it isn't how much we trust, but who we trust that makes the difference. Jesus is in control whether we see him or not! We do not need to be afraid.

What an amazing message to all of us as we face a world of war and earthquakes, of corruption and manipulation, of climate change and of sin and sadness at home. "Do not be afraid!" – the Savior promises to be there to deal with all the challenges of all the hours of the day and night.