



*This week's Revd. Morris' message: In the Ghostbusters movie, when the scary ones arrived the key refrain was... 'Who are you going to call? - **Ghostbusters! I wonder who you call when fears or troubles come?***

In today's Gospel, Jesus graphically demonstrates His response to some of the Disciples' deepest fears.



At the arrival of the large crowd, I wonder what the Disciples were feeling? How would you feel if 5000 men [ and their plus ones and children] turned up at your next hilltop picnic? Perhaps overwhelmed by the crowd? Afraid as to what the crowd would do if their heightened Passover expectations of Jesus were not fulfilled? Jesus then turns up the heat by saying in effect to the Disciples "Now ... **You feed them!**" .. and all they could scrounge together were some poor lad's lunch!

***Jesus then demonstrated that without Him, we never have enough. With Him, we have all that we need.***

Then follows the Disciples' miraculous Capernaum sea crossing. As the Disciples set off to cross the Sea of Galilee without waiting for Jesus, after nightfall they are struck by a severe Gale and rough seas some 4 or 5 miles away from the shore. *What were they thinking to have left Jesus behind? What was the imperative to go away from Jerusalem where the Passover must be celebrated? Where they going back to their home base in Capernaum?*

Imagine the Disciples fear as the storm rages .. even the experienced fisherman were afraid! *Then they see Jesus walking towards them.* What would He have to say about their departure? I wonder if their terror also encompassed a fear of Jesus' potential harsh judgement upon their actions? The text seems to indicate an initial lack of the Disciples willingness to let Jesus into the boat? Why would this be?

Jesus moves quickly to tell them not to be afraid and then they were willing to let Him get into the boat ... miraculously, they then find themselves on Capernaum's shore!

Importantly, we note from the preceding Chapter 5, that these events occur just before Passover and immediately after the Jerusalem Jewish leader's harassment and loudly articulated disbelief in and criticism of Jesus. Jesus concluded his denunciation of these leaders by saying that even their revered forebear Moses would denunciate them.

So, here we also see Jesus responding to the challenges of the Leaders with His own 'Passover- Exodus type miracles and events' including :

1. A miraculous feeding and sea parting echoing Moses' actions during the Exodus [ i.e. the parting of the Red Sea and feeding of the Manna to Israeli ];
2. Commanding that all the food be gathered [ as did Moses in Exodus 16:19]; and
3. Climbing 'further up the mountain' [ echoing Moses' climbing Mt Sinai and receiving the Law]



The crowd recognised these Mosaic connections and that Jesus was in fact the Messiah promised by Moses [ see v 14]. Passover was in part, a celebration of a national release from oppression in captivity. No wonder that the crowd, seeing the miraculous feeding and full of Passover expectations, moved to make Jesus King by force [ v 15].

So what does this Gospel reading mean for us today?

I wonder ***who do we call upon when fears and troubles come upon us?*** Jesus always stands with us, more willing to listen to us than we are of calling out to Him.

I also wonder if we, like the crowd who sought to make Jesus King, ***may see Jesus as our own personal miracle worker there to meet all OUR dreams and expectations? ..*** rather than we needing to listen for and obey His will?

**Gospel reading: John 6:1-21** Some resources to dig deeper: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revise-common-lectionary/ordinary-17-2/commentary-on-john-61-21-2> ;

**Upcoming Parish Activities: Wednesday** 10:30 a.m service; Meditation @6:30 p.m

**Every Sunday** Guitars and Ukulele lessons at 3 p.m; **Men's Breakfast** Thursday @7 am

**Next Sunday's Readings:** 2 Samuel 11:26- 12:13a; Ps 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

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**Public Site:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556418523933> ;

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.