

Conversations with Jesus

“It is I! Don’t be afraid!”

John 6:16-21

Art Birch

Recognizing Jesus’ presence calms even our greatest fears.

Impact

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” John 6:10

Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. Mark 6:41

...he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” John 6:12

“It now appears that mother-baby interaction, in the first year especially, is the very foundation of human emotions and intelligence. In the most essential terms, love grows the brain. The capacities for what make us most human – empathy, co-operation, intimacy, the fine timing and sensitivity that makes a human being charismatic, loving, and self-assured – are passed from mother to baby, especially if that mother is herself possessed of these qualities, and supported and cared for, so that she can bring herself to enjoy and focus on the task.” Steve Biddulph at <https://billmuehlenberg.com/2009/05/05/the-importance-of-motherhood/>

Fear

...they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. John 6:19

What do mothers fear?

Jesus

"It is I; don't be afraid."

John 6:21

- I am the bread of life (6:35, 48)
- I am the light of the world (8:12)
- I am the gate for the sheep (10:7, 9)
- I am the good shepherd (10:11, 14)
- I am the resurrection and the life (11:25)
- I am the way and the truth and the life (14:6)
- I am the true vine (15:1, 5)

To the Jews: "...before Abraham was born, I, I am!" John 8:58

To the arresting party: "I, I am!" John 18:5

God said to Moses, "'I AM WHO AM.' This is what you are to say to the Israelites, 'I AM' has sent me to you' This is my name forever.'"

- To Abraham, Genesis 26:24—"Do not be afraid, for I am with you."
- To Joshua, Joshua 1:9—"Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."
- Asaph to God, Psalm 73:23—"Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand."
- To Israel, Isaiah 41:10—"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
- Jesus to His disciples just before He ascended to heaven, Matthew 28:20—"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Recognizing Jesus' presence calms even our greatest fears.

For Reflection and Discussion with Family and Friends: What impact has your mother had on your life? What impact do you think God wants your life to have? What are the fears in your life that interfere with the impact your life could have? What will you do to recognize Jesus' continual presence with you, in order to calm even your greatest fears?

For Next Sunday: Read John 6:25-71 in order to prepare for Craig's message on Jesus, the bread of life.