

BIBLE READING

John 6:16–21 (NIV)

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, ¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.

¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.” ²¹ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NIV)

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

OUTLINE

Common fears: spiders, public speaking, heights, loss of control, phone calls. For first-century Jews, a major fear was **the sea** = chaos, danger, evil, death.

Big Idea: Knowing Jesus puts our fears in their proper place because he rules over creation, chaos and even death.

1. The Waters of Chaos (6:16–19a)

- i. Night, Strong winds, big waves, Jesus absent.
- ii. Images from: Flood, Exodus, Psalms.

2. The God Over Chaos (6:19b–21)

- i. Walking on the water:
 - i. Only God walks on chaos = Psalm 29, Genesis 1.
 - ii. A revelation of divine identity. Jesus stands above creation, chaos, death.

ii. John emphasises: **they were frightened when they saw him.**

- i. Jesus is the unknown.
- ii. Our fear often works the same way = Perfectionism, Control, Avoidance, Rebellion.

iii. **It Is I – Don't Be Afraid.**

- i. Luke 12 = Right fear = awe of God and Gentle reassurance = you are known, valued, kept.
- ii. Because Jesus has mastery: I don't have to be afraid. I can **learn** not to be afraid.
- iii. They take him in and reach the shore (phew!)

From Then to Now: Where Is Jesus Today?

Jesus is not physically beside us.

He is: Ascended, Interceding, Representing us before the Father (Hebrews 4:14–16). Guarantees mercy and grace in time of need.

Just as he brought the disciples safely to shore he will carry us through life through death. Life still contains chaos. Storms won't stop. But: Jesus is real. His presence is real. His power is real.

When you are afraid next, take a moment to pause, to thank Jesus that he is with you and for his care and power. Ask him to help you not be afraid, as you face, the challenge in front of you.

MY ONE THING

What's one thing that struck, challenged, or encouraged you today? Take 60 seconds to write it down. Then share it over morning tea.

