

## THIS IS JESUS

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John 6:1-14

- If you're just now joining us, we have been going through a series together entitled "This Is Jesus" where we have been walking through the book of John together as a church
  - We saw at the beginning of John's Gospel how he explained that Jesus is the logos, He is the purpose and meaning of life that every human being, living and breathing on this planet is looking for
  - We saw in Chapter 2, how Jesus performed His first miracle by turning water into wine at a wedding that showed us that Jesus has come to bring Joy
  - And then later on in the chapter we saw another side of Jesus where He caused a big scene by overturning the tables in the temple and in doing so, He showed us how Passionate He is about our cooperate prayer and worship

- Then in Chapter 3, we learned from His private interaction with Nicodemus how He will always meet with us privately and what it really means to be Born Again
- When we got to chapter 4, Pastor Brandon taught us about Jesus' time with the Samaritan woman at the well and how Jesus has come for outcasts and can save anyone, at any time, in whatever fashion He chooses
- And last week, we looked at the account in John chapter 5 where Jesus healed a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years. He told him to "Get up, Pick up his mat, and Walk."
- In that we saw the blue print of what repentance and beginning a spiritual Journey with God really looks like.
- And today we pick up John's narrative in Chapter 6, when he writes:
  - ***"After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea***

***of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following Him, because they saw the signs that He was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He 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 large crowd was coming toward Him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. 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 leftover fragments, 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 that He had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"***  
***-John 6:1-14 (ESV)***

- You know, when I read this story, I can't help but think of how little I have to offer
- What do I have to give, to Almighty God??
- Now sure, I've had those times whenever I get to feeling myself and I allow pride to swell up a bit and begin to think things like, "Man, God's lucky to have me on His team."

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- How many of us have been there, where we feel like we need a sales pitch, to come to church or get involved in church, or even come to faith, because we need to make sure that God's worth our "very important time"
- But then eventually, there will come those moments where we are faced with a circumstance or a situation that's a little bit bigger than we've ever imagined it could get
- And that's when God may asks us like He asked Philip, "Ok, how are we going to handle this situation?"
- And then like the disciples we just start pointing out the magnitude of the situation
- Philip says, "Even if we had 200 days worth of wages, it still wouldn't be enough!"
- Andrew says, "Well all we have here is one boys little lunch, what could that even do?!"
- We could be telling God:
  - "I only have a little bit of experience!"
  - "I only have a little bit of Bible knowledge!"
  - "I only have a little bit of talent!"
  - "I don't really have a great track record of doing the right things the right way very often!"
  - "What's THAT going to do in the context of a new job!"
  - "What's THAT going to do in the context of sharing my faith with others??"
  - "What's THAT going to do in the context of serving in church or raising my children in the way they should go!"
- "My problem is too great, my hurt is too deep, this task is too large!"
- "I don't have enough to give and I'm not enough myself"
- And this is the point where a lot of people would tell you, "Yes you are! You gotta stop speaking that over yourself! You ARE enough! You CAN do it!"

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- But I think Jesus would take the opposite approach, I think Jesus would say, “No, no, no, no, no...you’re right where you need to be. At the point of realization, that you can’t do it on your own, you need help, and you need a Savior”
- But we hesitate to think that way because we’re a generation that is drowning in insecurity, and are so afraid of how other people are going to see us or how they might think about us!
- So we try to manufacture our own solution, give an answer before we actually have one, offer up excuses, or just ignore the problem all together and hope it just goes away...
  - Man, how many times do we try so hard to make other people think that we’re better than we are because we’re insecure in thinking that they’re gonna think we’re not good enough, they’re gonna think that we don’t know enough, or we’re not skilled or

talented enough...and you know what...

WE’RE NOT!

- I’M NOT GOOD ENOUGH! ...I’M NOT A GOOD ENOUGH PASTOR, I’M NOT A GOOD ENOUGH HUSBAND, I’M NOT A GOOD ENOUGH CHRISTIAN, I’M NOT A GOOD ENOUGH FATHER, I’M NOT EVEN A GOOD ENOUGH DOG OWNER...(sorry JoJo)
- But you know what, I never will be! Why do we have such a hard time admitting that??
- I would never have experienced salvation in Christ, in the first place, if I couldn’t admit that I wasn’t good enough...so why do I keep trying so hard to prove that I am now??
- How much more content, how much more at peace would we be, how much pressure would we take off of ourselves if we could just admit we’re not enough...and you know what?? We don’t have to be, because He is!

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- And it doesn't matter how little we may have to offer, because in His Greatness, God loves to take the little that we have....and do big things with it!
    - And He loves to do this, because He never wants us to question where the power really comes from, and Who the One with the solution really is
  - So give Him the little bit of experience you have, give Him the little bit of bible knowledge you have, give Him the little bit of talent, the little bit of wisdom, the little bit of desire you may have over to Him
  - And say, "God use it for Your Glory, use it in whatever way You can to impact other people,"
  - Because if we know anything about God, He can do ALOT with a little
  - He can take something small and make it significant
- And It doesn't matter how big or how great, our problem, circumstance, or situation is....because Our God is Bigger, Our God is Stronger, Our God is HIGHER Than anything this world could ever throw at us

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John 6:16-21

**- *“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 became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and 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.” -John 6:16-21 (ESV)***

- Now, I don't know about you, but I have a tendency to get a little frustrated with Jesus in situations like this.
- Even in reading this, about this monumental display of Jesus showing His power and authority over nature by walking on water, I

can't get over the fact the last part of the last verse!

- Right when He gets in the boat, IMMEDIATELY John says, they arrived on land where they were going!
- I can't help but think, “Seriously? You couldn't have gotten here a little bit earlier?...”We've been rowing for 3-4 miles, in a sea storm, our very lives on the line, ROUGH SEA'S-STRONG WIND! We've been struggling this whole time and you get here, right when it's finally over??”
- But that's not how John says that they react
  - At first they're afraid....I mean, wouldn't you be??
  - You're on a small wooden sail boat, doing everything you can to keep from sinking, and then you see what looks like a ghost standing right on top of the water!
  - We all would be losing our minds at that point!

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- But then Jesus just calmly says, “It’s me, don’t be afraid”
  - And I feel like my initial response would be, “Where’ve you been! Why did you let us struggle like this! Tell me not to be afraid, this whole situation has been terrifying!!”
  - But that’s not the disciples response
  - John says they were “Glad”
  - The greek word in this context means, “ To be resolved”
  - They found their answer, they found their relief, because Jesus was there
  - The whole situation may have been a struggle, it may have been terrifying, they may have been on the verge of giving up all-together
  - But as soon as they were made aware of the presence of Jesus, they found their relief
- They could have been thinking, “Oh yea, You’re where my hope is, You’re where I find my comfort. Not in a smooth-easy path...but in You’re presence”
- No matter how rough and harsh things may get in life, I can be glad, I can have peace, because You’re here!
- You’re where I find my satisfaction and fulfillment
- Not in what I can do, but rather in what YOU have done for me
- And this is what a lot of people don’t understand because we want to make everything about ourselves, we like the idea of grace in our heads, but we still feel like we have to work for it or earn it somehow...
- Even the Jews asked Jesus, “***What must we do, to be doing the works of God?***” ***Jesus answered them, “This is the work of***

***God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.” -John 6:28-29 (ESV)***

- Did you know that the greatest spiritual work that you can do in this life, the greatest Godly work that you can do in this life is, BELIEVE
  - Believe that Jesus is who He says He is
  - Believe that Jesus is God and He is Lord
  - Believe that He came and died in your place
  - Believe that God raised Him from the dead
  - Believe that He is currently, right-now, sitting at the Right Hand of the Father interceding for you
  - Believe that He will never leave you or forsake you
  - Believe that no matter how rough the seas of your life has gotten, He’s been right there the entire time, walking along side of the boat
  - He’s never left you alone, He’s never left you to your own devices
- There is no where you can ever go from His Presence
- This is one of the reasons why these precious moments we have together in church are so important to our spiritual lives, because these are moments of corporate worship and community in which we can help each other reinforce what we believe
- Because there are so many distractions and stresses of life that can cause us to take our eyes off of Jesus
- Just like in the other accounts in the Gospels of Jesus walking on the water, they add in about how Peter got out of the boat to walk on the water with Jesus
- But he got scared, he got distracted, took his eyes off of Jesus and began to sink
- And yet, even in that moment, Jesus didn’t just watch him sink and tell him to be better and try



harder! No He reached out His hand and caught Him

- And Jesus loves to use moments like this in His house, among the gathering of His people to pick you back up whenever you have been sinking
- The Holy Spirit is here to remind us that He is all that we need and everything that we have been looking for.
- in verse 35 Jesus says to them, and I wish we had time to really dig into the context of all of this, but Jesus boldly declares, ***“Jesus said to them, “I Am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.” -John 6:35 (ESV)***
- And I love that He instituted practices such as communion, for His church, to help His people stay reminded of all that He is and all that He has done for us.

- At this time we are going to partake of communion together
  - And were going to do it a little bit differently today
  - We are going to invite the children to come forward and sit on the rug, and Ms Emma is going to spend some time teaching us about communion and what the elements mean and represent.
  - While Ms Emma is teaching, we will be passing out the elements to you all, and parents I am going to leave it up to your discretion about whether or not your children partake of the elements with you
  - You may have your own convictions about that and we support however you choose to lead your family spiritually in this.
- But after Ms Emma is done explaining communion, we will have your children to go back and sit with you, we will spend some time

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partaking of the elements together and have a time for us all to pray and reflect either personally or with your families before we close out in a time of worship together