



God in First Person
“Life in his Name” Series
John 6:16-21, p. 891
December 16, 2018
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God reveals himself to us as both unbelievably awesome and yet entirely personal in Jesus.

The Text: John 6:16-21

1) God is awesome, and he can never be quantified or categorized in human terms (vv. 16-19).

Job 9:4-10: ⁴ His wisdom is profound, his power is vast. ... ⁵ He moves mountains ... ⁶ He shakes the earth from its place and makes its pillars tremble. ⁷ He speaks to the sun and it does not shine; he seals off the light of the stars. ⁸ He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea. ¹⁰ He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed.

2) Jesus is God in the first person, and the only true spokesperson for God (v. 20).

Job 9:14-15, 33-35: ¹⁴ “How then can I dispute with him? How can I find words to argue with him? ¹⁵ Though I were innocent, I could not answer him; I could only plead with my Judge for mercy. ... ³³ If only there were someone to mediate between us, someone to bring us together, ³⁴ someone to remove God’s rod from me, so that his terror would frighten me no more. ³⁵ Then I would speak up without fear of him, but as it now stands with me, I cannot.

3) Jesus is our refuge, and our lives find peace in his presence (v. 21).

Psalm 46: 1-11: ¹ God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. ... ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. ... ¹⁰ He says, “Be still [cease striving!], and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” ¹¹ The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Response

We worship a God who is glorious beyond what we can ever understand and yet powerfully present in Jesus!

Sunday Text Questions for John 6:16-21

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- 1) Starter Question: How would you have responded to seeing Jesus walking toward your boat over three miles away from shore?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Although we must not be too speculative, why might the disciples have set sail for Capernaum without Jesus (v. 17)?
- 4) What is the point of v. 18, and how does it affect the meaning of the passage?
- 5) According to v. 19, Jesus walked over three miles on the sea to get to the disciples' boat. How is this detail significant?
- 6) What "frightened" the disciples when they saw Jesus walking toward them on the sea (v. 19)?
- 7) Some say Jesus' words to the disciples were a common idiom ("It is I"), but the same phrase can be translated as "I Am." After reading Exodus 3:13-14, which translation do you think best fits v. 20?
- 8) What is Jesus telling his disciples not to fear in v. 20?
- 9) How does v. 21 bring a fitting conclusion to this passage?
- 10) What *truths to believe* or *actions to obey* does this passage of Scripture teach us?

Further study this week: Exodus 3 on the Burning Bush (Mon); Genesis 1, especially v. 2, on the Spirit hovering over the water (Tues), Job 9 on the radical otherness of God (Wed); Psalm 46 on God as our refuge (Thurs); Isaiah 43 on not fearing (Fri).