**Spiritual Food for Isolation - John's Gospel 06**

Hi folks...it's a long chapter from John this week, but then there is so much within it based largely around the Sea of Galilee; including the feeding of the 5,000, walking on water, and Jesus calling Himself the Bread of life!

Thanking for joining us - may God bless our time together with Him.

1. **Aperitif:** When Jesus looked o'er Galilee:

( [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t768\_EaZRhI&t=79s**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t768_EaZRhI&t=79s) **)**then press 'f' for fullscreen.

**2) Prayer/Grace:** Our Father in heaven, we praise You for Your authority over nature. Having made the Earth with its seas, mountains, birds, fish, and every creature and atom within it, along with the laws of science which maintain such order in biology, chemistry and physics within and beyond our comprehension - how marvellous it is that You then entered that world and died at the hands of Your own creatures in order to redeem us. How incredible it is that You love us and see value in us, when we often struggle to see it for ourselves. Thank You for never giving up on us. Thank You for being the 'bread of life', the provider of our eternal sustenance and spiritual nutrition. As we look forward to that future day when we will be raised in our resurrection bodies to eternal life, let us not miss out of the opportunities and blessings you have for us now, even through tough times and the storms of life, knowing that just as Jesus entered that boat with the disciples on the stormy sea of Galilee, so You are with us in all things through Your Holy Spirit's presence. We pray for those suffering around our world at this time. May they know the blessed assurance that only Jesus can give. In His name we pray. Amen.

1. **Our main course;** the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the Apostle John, chapter 6:  [**The following address is to read the scripture**](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.biblegateway.com%2Fpassage%2F%3Fsearch%3DJohn%2B6%26version%3DNIVUK&data=02%7C01%7CBarbara_Dalrymple%40can.salvationarmy.org%7Cff037b8f89f741a1afc508d7e45e9cfa%7C6d08a372d98a49f380efca826293a473%7C1%7C0%7C637228967313468364&sdata=C90inwOJfwLmMRenYZqsCXhrUSZjkNJSmv5nAzd9jq4%3D&reserved=0)**– (**[**https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6&version=NIVUK**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6&version=NIVUK)**)**

**The following address is to hear the scripture:**

**(**[**https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/John.6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/John.6)**)**

**4) Chewing it over;** after reading today's chapter, take your time to think through the following:

 - v1 Observation: The Sea of Galilee is sometimes called the Sea of Tiberias (worth remembering in other Gospels)

- v1-15 do you believe the account of the feeding of the 5,000?...I have heard (as recently as 2020!) ministers suggest that the likelihood is that many folk actually had food with them, and the real ‘miracle’ was that their hearts changed when they saw the boy’s offering, and so they then shared what they already had. Sounds nice enough doesn’t it?...But is that what the Scriptures tell us?...And how would such a *natural* explanation of this ‘sign’ from John persuade the crowd to seek to make Jesus their King by force (v14-15)?...or is that bit inaccurate too?

- What might be the motives of teachers who try to ‘downgrade’ Scripture in this way?...how can we respond and affirm the truth of the Bible?
 - Is God able to create bread and fish?
 - v16-24…similar to the previous miracle, many skeptics would point to the word ‘immediately’ in v21 and claim that therefore Jesus had merely ‘appeared’ to walk on water, whereas it was virtually along the shoreline, and dark, and so they had been deceived. What do you think?...what does the Bible actually say?....how do we define ‘immediately’?...what was the previous occupation of some of Jesus’ disciples?...what was their response to seeing Jesus on the water (v19)?...what would be the point in entering a boat that is already at the shoreline to which it is headed?

 - assuming the Bible, and hence this story, is historically true…why has John included it?...what does it teach us about the nature of Jesus?...(consider the timing, the weather, their relationship, as well as Jesus’ abilities)

 - v27 is an easy to miss, yet very important verse. Are your priorities temporary or eternal?

  - v40, does this indicate that those who have died trusting in Jesus are not yet in heaven, but awaiting the ‘last day’ for their resurrection?...does this tie in with other Scripture (e.g. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)?...how does this compare to traditional thinking?...what might be the divine purpose of such a delay in resurrecting the dead?

 - v48, ‘I am’ - is this another statement of divinity?...’the bread of life’ – how essential to life/hunger/satisfaction was bread in the 1st century?....in the 21st century, what might be an equivalent term?

 - v35-59, some have used this narrative to teach that we should literally eat Jesus’ flesh and drink His blood (for example through transubstantiation in the Eucharist) in order to have eternal life. Would you agree that this is a valid use of the text?...why/why not?

- v35 seems to be a key verse. Does it help us to understand what 'eating His flesh' and 'drinking His blood' mean within this conversation?

 - v35-59, it is worth now just re-reading these verses in the light our knowledge of what Jesus did on the cross, in the light of the previous miracle (feeding the 5,000), and in the light of His claim to be the true bread from heaven.

 - v60 & v66 do you think it may have been Jesus’ plan to intentionally give ‘hard’ teaching in order to stop them from making Him king prematurely (v15)?

1. **Digestif:** Casting Crowns - 'Praise You in this storm: **The following address is to play the song mentioned**: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YUGwUgBvTU**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YUGwUgBvTU)

then press 'f' for full screen.

**6)Snacks:** Who made God? (short version)**The following is the address needed:** [**https://www.youtube.com/embed/1yY9a2SwNx4?autoplay=1**](https://www.youtube.com/embed/1yY9a2SwNx4?autoplay=1)

**7) Supper:**  Livings Waters video: Using questions and the Moral Law to lead people to the Saviour[**The following address is needed**](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fembed%2F8j2Xh2KgKhY%3Fautoplay%3D1&data=02%7C01%7CBarbara_Dalrymple%40can.salvationarmy.org%7Cff037b8f89f741a1afc508d7e45e9cfa%7C6d08a372d98a49f380efca826293a473%7C1%7C0%7C637228967313558312&sdata=s%2BIBmnMkaf8EwppmOVtqlzAREMOKEZ6TNAvnQ%2BftzSI%3D&reserved=0)**:**

[**https://www.youtube.com/embed/8j2Xh2KgKhY?autoplay=1**](https://www.youtube.com/embed/8j2Xh2KgKhY?autoplay=1)

 **8) Midnight Feast!** Who made God? The Kalam Cosmological Argument [**The**](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fembed%2FVeKavDdRVIg%3Fautoplay%3D1&data=02%7C01%7CBarbara_Dalrymple%40can.salvationarmy.org%7Cff037b8f89f741a1afc508d7e45e9cfa%7C6d08a372d98a49f380efca826293a473%7C1%7C0%7C637228967313588297&sdata=lO%2BPJVIV9KN0W1Wdqg7Xge%2FJizZkT%2FRQ5dQuGhUVZcM%3D&reserved=0) **Following address is needed:** [**https://www.youtube.com/embed/VeKavDdRVIg?autoplay=1**](https://www.youtube.com/embed/VeKavDdRVIg?autoplay=1)

***But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.***

***Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give***

***the reason for the hope that you have.***

***1 Peter 3:15***

[Can I trust the Bible?](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fembed%2FXyNseXdd260%3Fautoplay%3D1&data=02%7C01%7CBarbara_Dalrymple%40can.salvationarmy.org%7Cff037b8f89f741a1afc508d7e45e9cfa%7C6d08a372d98a49f380efca826293a473%7C1%7C0%7C637228967313598288&sdata=y3BXHEOxGLi0034uZmznzy%2B%2FPEujrsL%2BnrZULcmI0OM%3D&reserved=0)

[**https://www.youtube.com/embed/XyNseXdd260?autoplay=1**](https://www.youtube.com/embed/XyNseXdd260?autoplay=1)