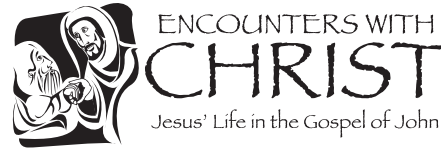


Prayer Updates



"Christ's Encounter with Anxious People"

Message by René Schlaepfer February 18-19, 2006

HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES THIS PAST WEEK

David Foster – Good Samaritan ICU
Debbie Kaesemeyer – testing
Gary Williams – surgery
Mary Long – migraines from previous aneurism

Recent hospitalizations & surgeries: Gary Speelman, Robert McCormack, Mike Banks, Alisia Garcia, Carol Connor, Karina Karabensh, Christine Lopez, Nancy Bittinger, Carol Coakley, Carol Taal, Susie Williams

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

In light of Christ's greatness...

1. ...How do I see my needs?

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" John 6:5-7

One word summarizes Philip's reaction: _____

With Jesus, an impossible situation is an _____

Question: What have I decided is too _____ for God to handle?

2. ...How do I measure my resources?

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" John 6:8-9

One word summarizes Andrew's reaction: _____

With Jesus, limited resources are _____

Question: What have I decided is too _____ for God to work with?

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." ...the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets..." John 6:10-13

3. ...How do I react to my storms?

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off... A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore..." John 6:16-21

One word summarizes the disciple's reaction: _____

With Jesus, a storm becomes a _____

Question: What have I decided is too _____ for God to navigate?

"And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the son of God.'" Matt. 14:33

How _____ is your Jesus?

Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." John 6:28,29

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this weekend's topic

This week's memory verse: *But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."* John 6:20

Monday

Read John 6:1-7. Why do you suppose Jesus wanted to test Philip?

What does Philip's answer reveal to you about Philip's state of mind?

In what area are you feeling overwhelmed right now?

How do you tend to react when you feel overwhelmed?

Answer the first application question at the end of the message:

What have I decided is too BIG for God to handle?

Today bring to God in prayer those big problems that are overwhelming you. Ask him to help you have faith in His power to solve the problem. Thank Him for His power and rest in Him today!

Tuesday

Read John 6:8-15. What surprises or intrigues you about this passage?

How is Andrew's response different from Philip's?

In what ways can you relate to Andrew?

In what area are you feeling under-resourced right now?

How do you tend to react when you feel under-resourced?

Answer the second application question at the end of the message:

What have I decided is too LITTLE for God to work with?

Today bring to Jesus the areas of life where you feel you lack resources. Be specific. Thank Him that He promises He will supply in some way. Ask Him to help you see His supply. Thank Him for His sufficiency and rest in Him today.

Wednesday

Read John 6:16-24. How are you going through a storm right now?

How do you tend to react when you go through a storm?

Answer the third application question at the end of the message:

What have I decided is too ROUGH for God to navigate?

In what area of your life do you need to hear the words, 'It's me; don't fear' from Jesus?

Read Isa. 43:1,2. How does this relate to the story you just read?

Tell God about the storms you are facing. Ask Him to help you see him in the storm, walking on the waves toward you. Ask Him to help you hear his voice saying to you, "I am here. Fear not."

Thursday

Read John 6:25-29. Why is Jesus' statement in verse 29 so radical?

Why is this belief in Jesus more effective than merely "doing works God requires"?

Think a bit more about John's emphasis in his gospel on the "bigness" of Jesus. Read John 6:35-40. Jesus is aware that the people see him as a teacher. But he wants to make it clear that he is much bigger than that. What are Jesus' claims in this passage?

To borrow a couple questions from John Ortberg, is Jesus getting bigger to you right now, or smaller, or staying the same?

If Jesus was truly who He claims to be in the Gospel of John, and you truly believed you could ask Him for anything in your life, what would you ask Him for?

Thank Jesus for his bigness. Specifically think of some of the "big" claims the Bible makes for Christ and thank Him for them now.

Friday

Read John 6:60-69. What intrigues you about this passage?

At this point many of Jesus' disciples have deserted him. Why does Peter say he will not leave Jesus?

How can you apply Peter's reasoning to your own life?

It's interesting to me that Peter does deny Jesus later, at the trial, and in fact goes through many other embarrassing and challenging episodes. But he never leaves Jesus completely.

Ask Jesus to help you persevere through the times you might feel like abandoning faith. Ask Christ to help keep you strong.

Saturday

Look back over the memory verse at the top of the page and commit it to heart. Please pray for the weekend services and all the rest that God is doing through TLC.