

“Be Not Afraid”
John 6:16-21

Introduction:

1. Let’s Return In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To John 6 - Where:
 - Last Sunday - We Looked At:
 - A Long Day:
 - Of Ministry:
 - For Jesus & His Disciples!
 - It Was A Long Day:
 - That Included Jesus’:
 - Teaching & Touching & Tending To:
 - A “Great Multitude” - As:
 - A Good Shepherd:
 - For His Flock Of Sheep!
 - And - Jesus Ended:
 - That Day With A Great Sign-Miracle:
 - When He Feed The Crowd:
 - That Was - At A Minimum:
 - 5,000 Men! But:
 - Was Much Larger:
 - If The Women & Children Were Added!
 - And - He Fed Them:
 - With Only 5 Pieces Of Bread:
 - And 2 Small Fish!
2. But - As We Discovered:
 - From Some Of The Other Accounts:
 - Of This Day - In The Other Gospels:
 - They **Started** The Day:
 - Weary & Tired!
 - So - Imagine Just How:
 - Weary & Tired They Must Have Been:
 - By The **End** Of The Day!
 - And So - After Jesus:
 - Dismissed His Disciples - And:
 - Dismissed The Crowd:
 - According To:
 - 6:15 - Jesus - “Departed Again Into A Mountain Himself Alone!”
 - And - Starting In 6:16 - We Learn About:
 - The Long Night:
 - That The Disciples Were About To Face:
 - On The Sea Of Galilee!
 - So - Let’s Read Together:
 - John 6:16-21 - “And when even was [now] come, his disciples went down unto the sea, / And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. / And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. / So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. / But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. / Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went!”
 - Now - This Long Night:
 - Is Also Recorded For Us:
 - By Matthew & Mark:
 - And They Give Us A Fuller Picture:
 - Of What Happened On This Night:
 - As Well!
3. And - In These Verses:
 - We Find Another Great Sign-Miracle!

- Whereas - The Miracle:
 - In The **Day** - Was A Sign:
 - For The Crowd:
 - To Get Them To Follow Him:
 - As Their Shepherd!
 - Here - This Miracle:
 - In The **Night** - Was A Sign:
 - For His Closest Disciples:
 - To Grow Their Faith In Him:
 - As The Solution:
 - For Their Fears!
 - And - As A Sign:
 - There Is Great Significance:
 - Even In The Details Of That Night:
 - As Jesus Wanted To:
 - Teach & Touch & Tend To:
 - His Disciples:
 - In A Unique & Special Way!
4. You See - Back In 6:15:
- We Were Told That:
 - “Jesus . . . Perceived That {The Crowd} Would Come And Take Him By Force, To Make Him A King!”
 - And - You Have To Wonder If:
 - Perhaps His Own Disciples:
 - Got Caught Up In The Frenzy & Fervor Of The Crowd!
 - This May Have Been Why:
 - Mark Recorded That:
 - Jesus Had To “Constrain” His Disciples:
 - To Get Into The Ship! (Mark 6:44)
 - And So - From The Great Heights:
 - Of That “Mountain-Top” Experience:
 - With The Presence & Power:
 - Of Jesus - On Full Display!
 - John Tells Us Again - In 6:16:
 - That They Went Down To:

1. *A Very Deep Place!*

- 6:16 - “And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea!”
- The Wording Of This Brief Verse:
 - Gives Us A Sense Of:
 - Great Foreboding!
 - Because Of Both:
 - The Direction & The Destination Of The Disciples!
 - The Direction Of The Disciples:
 - Was “Down!”
 - They “Went Down Unto The Sea!”
 - Of Course - This Was:
 - A Geographically Correct Description!
 - Because - From The Hills Surrounding The Sea Of Galilee:
 - They Had To Go “Down” To Get To The Shore:
 - Of One Of The Lowest Lakes In The World! 700 Feet Below Sea Level!
 - But - This Was Also:
 - An Emotionally Correct Description:
 - Of The Feelings Of The Disciples!
 - Just Imagine:
 - How They Must Have Felt:
 - Hearing Jesus’ Teaching:
 - That Day! And:

- Seeing Jesus' Miracles:
 - That Day!
- It Was Truly A Mountain-Top Experience:
 - For Them! **IE:** Like Camp! And It Would Have Been Hard For Them To Resist:
 - The Passions Of The Crowd:
 - To Make Jesus King:
 - Right Then & Right There!
- But - Instead - Jesus Had To:
 - Reign Them In & Constrain Them:
 - To Go Back Down & Out:
 - To The Sea!
 - Even Without Him!
 - So - Already - We Can Get A Sense:
 - Of What Is To Come Upon:
 - The Disciples!
 - But - This Is Further Seen In:
- The Destination Of The Disciples!
 - They Were To Go Down:
 - "Unto The Sea!"
 - Now - Even Though:
 - There Were Some Experienced Sailors:
 - On Board That Ship:
 - All Throughout The Bible:
 - The "Sea" Represented:
 - A Place Of The Unknown!
 - One Writer Explains How:
 - To The Jews:
 - "The Sea Often Stands For Chaos And Disorder!"
 - And This Was Where:
 - The Disciples Now Were:
 - *Without* Jesus On Board!
 - Indeed - They Were In:
 - A Very Deep Place!
 - But - What They Needed To Remember Was:
 - Who Sent Them?
 - Who Sent Them:
 - To Go "Down Unto The Sea?"
 - Who Sent Them:
 - In That Direction & To That Destination?
 - Jesus Sent Them!
 - And - That Is Why:
 - He Was The Solution:
 - For Their Fears!
 - Because - Even Though:
 - "The Sea Often Stands For Chaos And Disorder" - "It Is God Who Controls And Stills It!" (D. A. Carson)
 - They Would Have Had:
 - Countless Scriptures To Draw On:
 - To Help Them Through:
 - That Night!
 - Psalm 29:10-11 - "The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever. / The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace!"
 - Sometimes - In Your Own Life:
 - This World Can Feel Like:
 - A Very Deep Place!
 - Just Like The Sea:
 - The Disciples Were In!

- **IE**: Even Like A Pit! Like Jeremiah Was In!
- Need To Remember That:
 - Just Like Jesus Sent Them:
 - It Was Jesus:
 - Who Sent You Into This World:
 - And Is Sovereign Over All The Circumstances You Now Face!
- And - It Is Jesus:
 - Who Is The Solution For Your Fear:
 - No Matter How Deep:
 - Your Sea Or Pit May Feel!
 - **IE**: Corrie Ten Boom's Sister - Betsie - Ravensbrook Concentration Camp - "There Is No Pit So Deep God's Love Is Not Deeper Still!"
 - Pit Of Sin! Gospel!
- You Can Trust In Jesus!
 - And That Is Why In 6:17a - The Disciples "Entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum!"
 - They Believed & Trusted In Jesus:
 - That He Knew Best!
- But - It Didn't Take Long:
 - And - Their Faith Was Tested Again!
 - Because - Also In 6:17:
 - We Find The Disciples Again In:

2. *A Very Dark Place!*

- 6:17b - "And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them!"
 - When It Is Dark:
 - It Makes Things Much Harder!
 - And - This Was True:
 - Even For The Experienced Fisherman On That Ship!
 - It Would Have Been:
 - Harder To See!
 - To See The Shores:
 - Where They Left - And:
 - Where They Were Going!
 - And - It Would Have Been Much:
 - Harder To Steer!
 - No Doubt The Sailors On That Ship:
 - Would Have Done This Before!
 - But - They Were Already:
 - Tired & Weary:
 - From That Long Day!
 - And Now - They Had:
 - A Long Night To Look Forward To:
 - Without Jesus:
 - In Their Midst!
 - Indeed - They Were In:
 - A Very Dark Place!
 - But - When We Look At The Other Gospel Accounts:
 - We Know Something:
 - That They Did Not Know!
 - Because - In Mark 6:47-48:
 - We Are Told That - "And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. / And he *saw* them!"
 - Now - The Sea Of Galilee:
 - At Its Widest Point:
 - Is About 8 Miles Broad!
 - So - To Be "In The Midst Of The Sea" Would Be About:
 - 4 Miles Away From The Shore!

- But - In Spite Of The Distance!
 - And - In Spite Of The Darkness!
 - Who Saw Them?
- Jesus Saw Them!
 - And - That Is Why:
 - He Was The Solution:
 - For Their Fears!
 - Because - Nothing Can Get In The Way:
 - Of The Eyes Of Jesus:
 - When He Sets His Sights:
 - On His People!
- Sometimes - In Your Own Life:
 - This World Can Feel Like:
 - A Very Dark Place!
 - Just Like The Night:
 - The Disciples Were In!
 - Need To Remember That:
 - Just Like Jesus Saw Them:
 - Jesus Sees You!
 - And - It Is Jesus:
 - Who Is The Solution For Your Fears:
 - No Matter How Dark:
 - The Night Might Be!
 - As Ron Hamilton Once Wrote:
 - “When Shadows Fall And The Night Covers All, There Are Things That My Eyes Cannot See! I'll Never Fear, For The Savior Is Near! My Lord Abides With Me! How Can I Fear? Jesus Is Near? He Ever Watches Over Me! Worries All Cease; He Gives Me Peace! How Can I Fear With Jesus?”
 - You Can Trust In Jesus Too!
 - And Yet - For The Disciples:
 - The Sea Was Getting Deeper - And:
 - The Night Was Getting Darker!
 - And So - The Soon Found Themselves In:

3. *A Very Distressing Place!*

- In 6:18 - We See:
 - The Great Danger & Distress:
 - They Were Facing:
 - In That Deep & Dark Place!
 - “And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew!”
 - The Storms That Can:
 - Come Suddenly On The Sea Of Galilee:
 - Are Notorious!
 - Because - “Cool Air From The South-Eaatern Tablelands Can Rush In To Displace The Warm Moist Air Over The Lake, Churning Up The Water In A Violent Squall!” (D. A. Carson)
 - And - This Is What The Disciples:
 - Faced That Very Night!
 - The Great Wind:
 - Stirred Up The:
 - Great Waves:
 - Of The Sea!
 - So Much So - That:
 - Mark Tells Us That:
 - The Wind Was “Contrary To Them!” (6:48) - And:
 - Matthew Tells Us That:
 - The Ship Was “Tossed By The Waves!” (14:24)
 - So - This Great Storm:

- Not Only Stirred Up That Sea!
 - It Stirred Up:
 - Those Sailors:
 - On That Sea!
- And - They Were In:
 - An Even More:
 - Dangerous & Distressing Place!
- Now - Even Though:
 - The Disciples May Have Not Seen:
 - The Storm On The Horizon!
 - Jesus Sure Did!
 - And - He Still Sent Them Ahead Of Him:
 - Anyway!
- But - Once Again:
 - I think John's Remarks In 6:6:
 - Can Apply Here Too!
 - Jesus "Himself Knew What He Would Do!"
- You See - Jesus Already Did Something:
 - Special For The Crowd:
 - To Bring Them To Faith:
 - In Him As Their Shepherd!
- Now - Jesus Was About To Do Something:
 - Special For His Disciples:
 - To Deepen Their Faith:
 - In Him!
- But First - A Storm!
 - Remember This - When:
 - You Are Going Through A Distressing Time / Storm In Your Life!
 - Jesus Still Knows What He Is Doing!
 - But Then:
- In 6:19 - We See Even Further:
 - The Great Difficulty & Distress:
 - They Faced - When They:
 - "Had Rowed About Five And Twenty Or Thirty Furlongs!"
 - Again - Mark Tells Us That They Were "Toiling In Rowing!"
 - It Was Long & Hard Work!
- They Were Laboring:
 - In That Sea! And:
 - They Had Already Rowed:
 - For Between 3 & 3½ Miles Already!
 - More Than Likely:
 - That Was The Distance:
 - They Expected To Row:
 - To Get Where They Were Wanting To Go!
 - But - Instead Of Being:
 - Closer To The Shore:
 - Of The Destination:
 - Matthew & Mark Tells Us That They Were In The:
 - "Midst Of The Sea!"
 - So - Even As They Labored:
 - In That Sea:
- They Were Essentially Lost:
 - In That Sea!
 - How Distressing That Must Have Been:
 - Even For Those Experienced Fishermen Among Them!
- They Were In:
 - A Very Deep & Dark & Distressing Place!
 - But - After Spending Some Time:

- Just Trying To Get Anywhere:
 - Something Happened!
- 6:19 - "So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship!"
 - Of Course - At The Time:
 - The Disciples Didn't Know:
 - It Was Jesus! But:
 - It **Was** Jesus! And:
- Jesus Sought Them:
 - And Walked To Them:
 - To Prove To Them:
 - That He Was The Solution:
 - To Their Fears!
 - And - Nothing Could Get In His Way:
 - As He Was "Drawing Nigh" Unto His Disciples:
 - In "The Ship!"
- Once Again - John Refers To:
 - This Miracle - As "No Big Deal!"
 - Its Just Jesus - "Walking!"
 - Right In The Middle Of The Sea In The Middle Of A Storm!
 - He Was Walking Up & Down:
 - The Waves - As If They Were:
 - Just Little Hills On Land!
 - He Walked On The Water:
 - Calmly & Continuously & With Confidence!
 - No Struggle At All!
- Once Again - How Many Times:
 - Do You Experience Distress In Your Life:
 - Even As A Christian:
 - In This Fallen World?
 - The Dangers You Face!
 - The Difficulties You Go Through!
 - Need To Remember That:
 - Just Like Jesus Sought After Them:
 - Jesus Still Seeks After You!
 - And - It Is Jesus:
 - Who Is The Solution For Your Fears:
 - No Matter How Distressing:
 - The Storms Of Your Life Might Be!
 - Keep Your Faith & Trust:
 - In Jesus!
 - And Yet - For The Disciples:
 - They Faced One Last Test:
 - In That Storm On The Sea!
 - Even With Jesus Walking Toward Them - They Found Themselves In:

4. ***A Very Disturbing Place!***

- Because - In That Very Deep & Dark & Distressing Place:
 - 6:19 - When Jesus Was Walking On The Water:
 - At First - They Didn't See **Him!**
 - Instead - They Saw Some Form Or Figure!
 - With Motion & Movement!
 - And - They Strained Their Eyes To See What It Was!
 - But Then - As Mark Tells Us:
 - "They Supposed It Had Been A Spirit!" (6:49)
 - And - Not A Friendly One!
 - Now - Ever Since The Disciples Met Jesus - They Had Become:
 - Quite Familiar With The Spirit World!

- And - This Time:
 - Jesus Was Not With Them!
 - And - They Wanted Nothing:
 - To Do With It!
 - So - 6:19 - "They Were Afraid!"
 - Probably In Full Panic Mode!
 - These Grown, Strong & Experienced Men:
 - Became Puddles Of Fear And Dread!
- How Easy It Is:
 - For The Same Thing:
 - To Happen To Us!
 - Even When We Know That Jesus Is With Us:
 - In The Middle Of A Storm!
 - We Are So Prone:
 - To Fear!
- Indeed - The Disciples Were In:
 - A Very Disturbing Place!
 - But - At That Moment:
 - When They Were At Their Lowest Point:
 - Of Fear:
 - Jesus Spoke To Them!
 - In 6:20 - "But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid!"
 - What A Contrast To & Comfort For:
 - Their Fear!
 - Jesus Had No Fear!
 - And So - He Spoke To Them:
 - About Their Fear!
 - The Voice Of Jesus:
 - Broke Through:
 - The Sound Of The:
 - Wind & Waves:
 - In That Deep & Dark & Distressing Place!
 - Again - Psalm 29:3:
 - "The voice of the LORD [is] upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD [is] upon many waters!"
 - The Voice Of Jesus:
 - Was A Clear Voice!
 - Able To Pierce Through:
 - The Air - Right Into:
 - Their Hearts!
 - The Voice Of Jesus:
 - Was A Comforting Voice!
 - When He Said To His Disciples:
 - "It Is I!" / "I Am!"
 - They Would Have Recognized:
 - The Sound Of His Voice!
 - And At That Moment:
 - He Was There With Them & For Them!
 - And - He Was Everything:
 - Then Needed Him To Be!
 - The Voice Of Jesus:
 - Was A Commanding Voice!
 - Because He Was There:
 - He Could Say - "Be Not Afraid!"
 - Jesus Spoke To Them!
 - And That Is Why:
 - He Was The Solution:
 - For Their Fear!

- And - When Peter Heard:
 - This Voice Of Jesus:
 - Matthew Tells Us That:
 - He Immediately Wanted To:
 - Go To Jesus! And Even Tried! Know The Story!
- But - John Moves Past Peter's Response:
 - Right To The Response:
 - Of All Of The Disciples:
 - In 6:21a - "Then they willingly received him into the ship!"
- How Many Times In Your Life:
 - Do You Experience This Kind Of Disturbance?
 - When You Worry Or Become Anxious:
 - Even To The Point Of:
 - Full Panic Mode?
 - Need To Remember That:
 - Just Like Jesus Spoke To Them:
 - Jesus Speaks To You - Still!
 - Through His Own Word!
 - And In His Word:
 - His Voice Is:
 - Clear & Comforting & Commanding:
 - To Increase Your Faith & Trust In Him!
 - "Be Not Afraid!"
 - Because - Jesus Is The Solution:
 - To Your Fear!
 - And - Respond To Him:
 - The Way The Disciples Did!
 - "Willingly Receive Him Into Your Ship!"

Conclusion:

1. In Other Words:
 - Be Eager To Have Jesus:
 - On Board With You:
 - In The Sea:
 - Of Your Life!
 - Whether Its Rough Or Calm!
2. You See:
 - It Wasn't Jesus:
 - Who Needed The Ship!
 - He Was Able To Walk On That Water:
 - Just Fine!
 - It Was The Disciples - And:
 - It Is You - Who Need Him:
 - To Be In The Ship:
 - With You!
 - You Need Jesus! And:
 - You Can Trust In Jesus!
 - 3. Because - No Matter:
 - How Deep Or Dark Or Distressing Or Disturbing:
 - Your Life May Be:
 - Jesus Can Still Bring Into Your Heart:
 - A Great Calm!
 - In Both Matthew & Mark's Account:
 - As Soon As Jesus:
 - Was In The Ship:
 - "The Wind Ceased!"
 - But - Here In John's Account:
 - 6:21b - "Immediately the ship was at the land whither they went!"

- I Believe This Is:
 - Another Miracle!
- Because - Before This:
 - The Ship Was In The Midst Of The Sea!
- But Now - They Were Right Where:
 - Jesus Wanted Them To Go!
 - Even “The Land Whither They Went!”

4. What A Lesson This Was:

- To Increase Their Faith - And:
 - To Increase Your Faith:
 - In Him!
- No Matter How:
 - Deep Or Dark Or Distressing Or Disturbing:
 - Your Storms Of Life May Be:
 - He Will Always:
 - Bring You To Your Desired Haven! The Harbor Of His Rest & Peace!

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***