

Compass Bearing #15
Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic
"In Search of Jesus"
Saturday, April 25, 2020
by Pastor Mark Ellcessor

*Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum **in search of Jesus** (John 6:24).*

In search of Jesus. This is a descriptive, powerful phrase. Let's take a look at it.

The previous day Jesus and the disciples sailed from their ministry headquarters, a town called Capernaum on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. There he had received the news that John the Baptist had been put to death by Herod. This hit Jesus hard. He wanted some time alone to process his grief. So he and the disciples sailed to the far side of the sea to get away. But the people would have none of it, and *"the crowds followed him on foot"* (Mark 14:13) because *"they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick"* (John 6:2). At his private grief retreat, Jesus ended up being mobbed by 5000 men and their families.

What did Jesus spend the day doing? *"He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing"* (Luke 9:11). And at the end of the long day, Jesus fed the 5000 families with a boy's sack lunch. In the depth of his grief, Jesus continued to pour himself out to others from morning to night. As night approached, Jesus sent the disciples in the boat back across the sea. *"After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone"* (Matthew 14:23). After hours of prayer, Jesus walked on the water to his disciples, who were struggling to sail against a fierce storm. What a day!

The next morning, the 5000 families woke up. The bread and fish Jesus fed them was digested. It was time for breakfast, and they were hungry. No doubt, they tried to find Jesus. Maybe he could whip up some pancakes! But he was nowhere to be found, and his disciples and their boat were gone. That leads us to today's verse:

*Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum **in search of Jesus** (John 6:24).*

Jesus had welcomed, healed, and fed them. Who wouldn't want more of that? So they set out to search for him.

Are you searching for Jesus? Do you eagerly long to spend time with him? Would you run on foot or row your boat several miles to be with him? Are you reading Scripture and spending time in prayer to grow your relationship with him? Here is the good news. Jesus still welcomes. He still heals. He still feeds our souls. Sometime today, do whatever it takes to go in search of Jesus. You will be glad you did.