The one aspect of Jesus most people struggle with is miracles, including the two recorded here.

It is very easy to get sucked into trying to make sense of them from our 21st Century scientific minds.

Seems like a right thing to do, but completely misses the point.

(That is not to say that we naively accept miracles – but a sermon is not the time to do discuss them)

We need to ask: why did John write this story? Gospels are not mere biographies. He was trying to indicate something about who Jesus was, and by implication what God is like.

Fortnight ago I mentioned the checks and balances to power – government, judiciary and military.

For faith there is a similar balance – power, love and wisdom.

Wisdom to discern what is truly going on; Power to do something about it; Love to do the right thing.

This is all in keeping with God’s rules for life and God’s Rule (Kingdom).

God’s Power is easy to see in these stories: to feed others, to walk on water.

What was Jesus’ motivation? Was it just that people were hungry? Or that the disciples were struggling?

Whilst these are true, it is deeper. God wants to supply our true needs, and quell our greatest fears.

For Jews hunger personified their needs, sea personified their fears. Jesus’ & thus God’s motivation is Love.

Wisdom comes from discernment both of how Love can happen, but how Love might be misinterpreted.

The people’s idea of king was a twisted use of Power & view of Love - overthrow of Romans, & selfish wants.

What about us? Our truest needs? Air, water, etc + social connection, affirmation of being loved, and a role.

Our greatest fears? Isolation, death, meaninglessness.

This is why we gather as a parish: worship God, chat over morning tea, gather for friendship and mission.

We seek God’s Wisdom to discern the particular needs/fears of ourselves and of each other.

We seek God’s Power to be have the strength to support each other in these needs/fears.

We seek God’s Love to use that strength in the best possible way to satisfy needs and quell fears.

When that tripod works well the outcome furthers God’s Kingdom, often topsy-turvy compared to world.

We pray for that Wisdom, Power and Love, even when (maybe especially when) it goes against the grain.