

John 5

'Searching'

Introduction ...

Did you know that our subconscious brain is continually scanning the horizon for possible danger? It's quite a thought, isn't it?

And I wonder if that's why – as human beings – we are often searching for something 'more' something 'better' ... or if not actually proactively searching, we can easily be drawn into it. That's what most advertising relies on ...

Searching for something **better**

safer

more secure

more thrilling

more meaningful

For some people, this search leads into drugs, alcohol, or workaholism ... For others it leads into serial breakdown of relationships or perhaps extreme sports?

How does this link to Faith?

That subconscious scanning of the horizon for danger links strongly to a need for safety, for fellowship ... and can link to looking out for others. Also for freedom searching for a life like this is perhaps what some have called a 'God-shaped' hole in each of our lives. And a search for life with God.

John 5 ...

In our Gospel reading tonight, Jesus criticises the Pharisees for searching the Scriptures for this life ... a bit harsh we might think ... but his point is that eternal life is found in Jesus himself.

Think of your own experience ... think of some of the words of Jesus:

I have come to bring you life, life in all its fulness ...

Abide in me, bear my fruit ...

I am the bread of life ... water of life ...

No one can snatch you out of my hand ...

Conclusion ...

Each of us at times can feel:

unsettled,

insecure,

restless,

yearning,

discontented,

a sense that there must be more to life ...

When that happens, let's remember to search but to search within our discipleship, within our relationship with Jesus – for that's where true treasure will be found.

Amen.