

# THE BOOK OF JOHN

## Faith That Works

John 6:15-29

John 6:15-17, "When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone. 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."

### I. What Are You Afraid Of?

Jesus intentionally separated himself from His disciples after this great miracle. Why?

- To reject the call of the crowd
- To spend time alone with His Father
- To place His disciples in a position of trust

Mark 6:45-46, "And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray."

John 6:18, "And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew."

The disciples were caught in the middle of the storm because they obeyed the Lord.

John 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: and they were afraid."

Matthew 14:25, "And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea."

Matthew 14:26, "And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear."

The disciples fear had two powerful impacts upon the way they saw things:

- Their fear kept them from recognizing Jesus.
- Their fear caused them to be terrified of Jesus.

John 6:20, "But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid."

The most often repeated command in the Bible is Don't Be Afraid!

3 parts to this miracle

- Disciples without Jesus
- Disciples and unknown Jesus
- Disciples with Jesus in their boat

John 6:21, "Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went."

Matthew 14:28-31, "And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

Mark 6:51-52, "And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened."

#### 4 miracles happened that night:

- Jesus walks on water
- Peter walks on water
- The storm is stilled
- They arrive immediately at the other shore

What is the meaning of walking on water? It is to teach us the resources that are available to us to quiet our fears.

This story teaches us How Jesus gives us the resources to deal with our fears:

- Jesus moves us towards our fears
- Jesus enters our fears
- Jesus calls upon us to trust him with our fears
- Jesus moves us away from our fears

### **Two pictures in Jesus' miracle of walking on the water**

#### **A picture for his Disciples following his death on the cross:**

The experience that the disciples faced when Jesus walked on the water was one that prepared them for what happened when Jesus died and was resurrected. A time of separation, followed by a miraculous appearance of Jesus Christ and a new power for their lives.

#### **A picture for His Church today:**

There is in this miracle a parable of Jesus and His church. Jesus is in heaven interceding for us. We are in the midst of the storms of life trying to reach the shore. One day Jesus miraculously comes for us and we immediately reach the "other side" safely, the storms forever stilled.

John 6:22-24, "The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone; (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks) When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus."

## **II. What Are You Working For?**

The crowd and the disciples are both confused in this chapter. So what's the difference between them?

The crowd is searching for Jesus ... The Disciples are sought out by Jesus.

John 6:25-26, "And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither? Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled."

Jesus' reply to the people shows us two things:

- He's more interested in our motivation than our action.
- He's not afraid to get right to the point.

When Jesus says they ate and were filled, he uses a word that would have made them think of animals eating and being stuffed with the grass of the field.

John 6:27, "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed."

Two basic human appetites:

Physical: Food that perishes

Spiritual: Food that endures

Two methods of filling the appetite:

Work: My Effort

Give: God's Grace

Isaiah 55:2, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

John 6:28-29, "Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

The people heard the word, labor, and completely missed the word, believe.

"What can we do to work the works of God?"

The question really is "What do I have to do to make God happy?"

Jesus' Answer: The Work of Belief!

- It is not a single act... it's a constant attitude.  
Believe is in the present tense, it expresses a continuing life of faith.
- It's not how we trust... it's who we trust.
- It's not a balance between my work and God's work... it's abandoning my work for God's work.