

Home Group Notes
Week of May 2, 2021
John 6:15-24

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

People might say, 'He can walk on water.' What do you think people might mean by this? Why would this particular miracle in Jesus' life be so well known?

LISTENING TO GOD IN HIS WORD

In the previous passage, Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000+ people which happens on the same day as this week's passage. Read John 6:15-24 and summarize the facts of this story.

- Jesus stays behind and the disciples launch out in a boat for the opposite shore
- A major storm hits the disciples
- Jesus came walking to them on the water and the disciples are terrified
- Jesus identified Himself and they take Him into the boat
- They arrive to the opposite shore

The author of "The Gospel of John" reveals his purpose in the gospel in 20:31. What signs or actions point to the identity of Jesus in this passage?

Multiple points in this story point to Jesus' identity as being God

- Jesus walked on water
- Possible that when he identified Himself as "I am" that this harkened to God's name in the Old Testament (Yahweh = "I am"). More "I am" statements occur later in this gospel.
- The boat was instantly on the opposite shore

What aspects of the disciple's situation made this a frightening trial?

- It was night
- The storm
- Jesus was not with them
- They were very tired from a long day of serving
- Jesus walking to them on water frightened them

Where was Jesus during their trial? What might he have been doing? Why might He have waited to come?

- We know that he went up on a mountain by himself
- It was a common thing for Him to go to meet with / pray with the Father
- He wanted them to face this trial

Some believe that verse 20 summarizes some powerful truths to hold on to when encountering trials. What stands out to you?

- Here is v. 20: "But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."
- Several things stand out:
 - It is natural to be afraid
 - Though we don't know it, Jesus is present (on the water with them)
 - Jesus' commands us to "don't be afraid" – this is by faith
 - Jesus is the "I AM" – it is God with us.
 - God can change the storm or enable us. Both are God actions.

Endurance and perseverance are vital to those who follow Jesus. What does faith-filled endurance produce in our lives according to the following passages?

- Romans 5:3-5 Perseverance is part of God's plan to bring about godly character
- 2 Timothy 2:10-12 Faithful endurance is necessary for those who are serving God and His family. Through our endurance in ministry, we hope to help others obtain salvation. And later, this enduring service is rewarded when we reign with Jesus.
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 This powerful passage reveals that enduring suffering has eternal and immeasurable rewards.
- James 1:2-4 Faithfully enduring / persevering through trials produces completion of what God wants to do in and through us.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What kinds of life experiences make us yearn for God's presence? What have you experienced?
For me, I yearn for God's presence when in trials in relationships, family brokenness, and feeling like I am failing.

What helps you know that God is present and cares when you are in a 'storm?'
God uses Scripture, time in prayer / listening, God's family, worship in song or service, and remembering how God has worked in the past.

What kinds of things do we learn in these kinds of trials? How do they fit into God's master plans for us and His kingdom?

For me, learning about the character of God is what is most important. I learn of God's faithfulness by looking at how He has worked in the past, I grow in character and faith as I endure by believing that God is always working and by seeing Him answer prayer, and I have seen God use storms to bring about His kingdom as He does what only God can do.

A friend says, "God is rarely early but never late." Why might this be true of God? What might God be doing by letting us go through trials?

I am convinced that we sometimes need to yearn for God in order to grow greater faith and faithfulness. God's timing is often late in my thinking. But then as I look back, I have often learned so much "in the dark night of the soul."

Love you my brothers and sisters,
Steve