

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bible with me to John 6

In our study last week, we looked at Jesus and the feeding of the 5000 men.

I had mentioned that it was one of two miracles listed in our four gospels –

What is the other one?

The miracle or sign that we are going to cover in our text this morning is found in three of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, John)

It is also one of the most well known miracles in the gospels.

And of course, I am talking about Jesus walking on water.

However, I have to mention before we start – that as we study this event, we actually find that this one miracle is actually a collection of 4 or 5 miracles that reveal who Jesus Christ is.

Let's pray...

[Jhn 6:15-21 NKJV] 15 Therefore when Jesus **perceived** that they were about to come and take Him **by force** to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

I mentioned last week, that at the beginning of chapter six, this was the portion in earthly ministry of Jesus Christ where He had the largest crowds following Him.

You might remember that He wanted some alone time for Himself and His disciples –

They had just returned from the ministry that Jesus sent them to do, they had just received news of what had happened to John the Baptist.

Jesus was trying to provide them with alone time so that they could rest, so that they could eat, so that He could continue to minister to them – that is why they went to the deserted place and when they got there, the crowds were waiting for them.

And we saw the compassion that Jesus had on the multitude as He fed 15 – 20k people with 5 rolls and two fish.

Everyone ate until they were full.

However, their response to the miracle, which we see here in verse 15, revealed that they were following Jesus for the wrong reasons.

And one of the questions we have to ask ourselves this morning

Why are we here?

Why did we come to church?

Are we here for the yummy donuts and coffee?

Are we here for social reasons?

Are we here because we are religious? “Hey, it’s Sunday morning – I better check that box or else God is not going to like me?”

Or are we here because we want to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Because that is the issues that Jesus confronted His followers 2000 years ago and it is the same issue He confronts those today here at Calvary Santa Cruz.

Why are you here?

Verse 15 says that Jesus perceived that the multitude – the word that is used here is the word that means: come to know, get a knowledge of

Jesus wasn’t wondering about the crowd’s intention to make Him king. He KNEW it.

The word that John uses here where he says that they were ready to take Him by force – by force is the word harpazo, which means: to seize, carry off by force; to snatch out

It is where we get “rapture” from (the latin word, “rapturo”

Jesus knew that the crowd was serious about violently grabbing and making Him into the new King of Israel.

Bottom line church,

The crowd wanted a king – without the cross

They wanted Jesus to take His position as king “now”, deliver them from Rome, feed them and heal them.

They wanted to make Jesus their king so that He could be able to meet all of their physical needs.

Again, they are following Jesus for the wrong reasons.

Jesus knows this – and He goes up to the mountain (hill) to be by Himself.

Now, in the Gospel of Matthew – he writes that Jesus went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.

Church, I believe that Jesus went up to pray because He was tempted by the crowd.

I think we forget that despite being God, Jesus was also fully man.

I think it is important not to diminish His humanity.

He was tempted just like we are tempted.

And if our heads blow up when 5-10 people tell us how great we are.

Imagine knowing that a good portion of the 20k people there, were ready to put Him on their shoulders and make Him king.

So Jesus didn't stick around temptation's presence.

He sought fellowship with God the Father.

[Psa 119:34 NKJV] 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with [my] whole heart.

Now, beginning with verse 16, John is going to backtrack a little.

Because in the midst of the multitude wanting to make Jesus king, we have to remember that Jesus twelve disciples were there too.

But before we get there,

Let's turn to Matthew 14

[Mat 14:22 NKJV] 22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Jesus gave His disciples a command –

Get in the boat!!!!

They didn't decide among themselves that it was getting late and it was time to return home.

Jesus is sending them off.

In my mind, as I read this event, I actually picture Jesus putting them into the boat and Jesus pushing the boat from the shoreline and saying, "Hey guys, see you on the other side"

Now, ask yourself, “Did Jesus know what was going to happen next?” Of course.

16 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. 18 Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing.

Now, before we proceed, I want to remind you that at least four of the disciples were experienced fishermen.

The Sea of Galilee was very familiar to them.

They lived there.

They knew it backwards and forwards.

Another thing I want to remind you of is that this is not the first storm that the disciples have experienced in the Sea of Galilee.

Because a few months earlier there was incident in the same body of water and a storm hits, however, Jesus is in the boat with them – He sleeping like a baby and the disciples are panicking – Mark even records that the disciple wake Him up and say to Jesus, Don't you care that we are about to drown.

And Jesus got up and rebuked the winds and said to the waves, Be still – and there was calm.

(Matt 8, Mark 4 and Luke 8)

So the disciples have been through this before.

19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. 20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

The disciples began rowing toward Capernaum in the evening –

Matthew's gospel tells us that they see Jesus in the fourth watch.

The fourth watch is from 3 AM to 6 AM

The disciples had been rowing for over 9 hours!!!!

Matthew also tells us that they were nowhere near the shore – they are sitting there in the middle of sea – rowing away, being tossed and turned by the wind and the waves.

For nine hours, none of the disciples cried out to Jesus.

They had forgotten that He was the One who had calmed the sea a few months before

They had forgotten that the previous day, He had provided lunch for 20k people using the rolls and the two fish.

They had forgotten everything that Jesus had taught them and everything they had seen Him do in the previous two years.

And instead of calling out to Jesus, they resorted to what they know.

They depended upon themselves.

Church, sometimes our greatest strengths can be our greatest weaknesses.

We depend on our own intelligence, our own logical thinking to resolve issues and many times, these things can get in the way of our faith.

We are fishermen who think we know everything about a boat

So when the storms of life come – we rely on our own understanding / we resort to what we know.

Church, some of us are still rowing.

We are still trying to overcome the storms in life “our way” – and the wind is getting stronger and stronger and we row harder and harder, but we are not making any progress.

Now, I don't want you to miss this.

The disciples find themselves in the middle of this storm because of their obedience.

Last week, we saw Jesus tell them to have the people sit down on the grass – and they were obedient.

Jesus told them to get in the boat – they got in the boat

Jesus told them to sail to Capernaum, they are on the way to Capernaum.

Because they were obedient, they are in the middle of a storm.

And church, we have example after example in the scriptures of individuals who were obedient that had to go through storms.

Because Moses was obedient, and he had people bashing him and hating him and yelling at him

Because Daniel was obedient, he was thrown into the lion's den

Because Paul was obedient, he was beaten with rods, he was stoned, he was shipwrecked – we have been studying the storms that Paul went through on Wednesday night

And some of us might be thinking – well this is the reason that I am not obedient.

But I think that we forget about the joy that comes with obedience -

That is what we find at the end of the life of Moses, Daniel and Paul

And sometimes we have the misconceptions that we don't want to be obedient to what God has for us because we know that we will be attacked right away by the enemy.

Who put the disciples on the boat? God

Who knew the storm was there? God

Who sent the storm? God

We need to remember this during our times of difficulty

We need to remember this when we are faced with the storms of life.

We need to go before Him and ask, “What do you want me to learn from this situation because it stinks”

And most of the time, God is refining us. He is smoothing those rough edges so that He can continue to work in us and through us.

Now, when you read Mark’s account of this event, he tells us Jesus saw them straining as they were rowing while He was still on dry land.

And the reason that I bring this up is because many times as we go through the storms of life, we often feel that God forgot about us?

But, no – He didn’t forget. He saw the entire thing and He waited.

He waited for what?

He waited for the disciples to exhaust their resources before He showed up to save them.

He didn’t come late.

He came when the time was just right.

I had you make a note that they saw Jesus walking on the sea

Mark's account tells us that Jesus at first passed them by.

Why didn't they notice Jesus?

Because they were not looking for Him.

And then once they spot Jesus walking on water, both Matthew and Mark tell us that at first they thought Jesus was a ghost and Matthew writes that disciples cried out for fear.

That phrase, "cried out for fear" is the masculine way of saying, they screamed

They cried out for fear sounds a lot better than saying, they screamed their heads off

[Mat 14:27 NKJV] 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

Church, God brings us comfort when we hear His voice.

[Mat 14:28 NKJV] 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

Can you imagine Jesus reaction about what Peter just asked?

Lord, if it is you,

"For crying out loud, Peter, who else do you think it is?"

But then Peter says, command me to come to You on the water

Can you imagine the reaction of the other disciples when Peter asked that?

“Peter, shut up!!!”

But Jesus met Peter where he was and if you read the rest of Matthew’s account, Peter walked on water to go to Jesus.

The scriptures don’t tell us how many steps that Peter took toward Jesus as he walked on the water.

But the moment he took his eyes off of Jesus and began to focus on the wind and the waves, he began to sink.

Another thing that the scriptures don’t reveal to us is how far Peter sunk.

How far did the Lord allow him to sink?

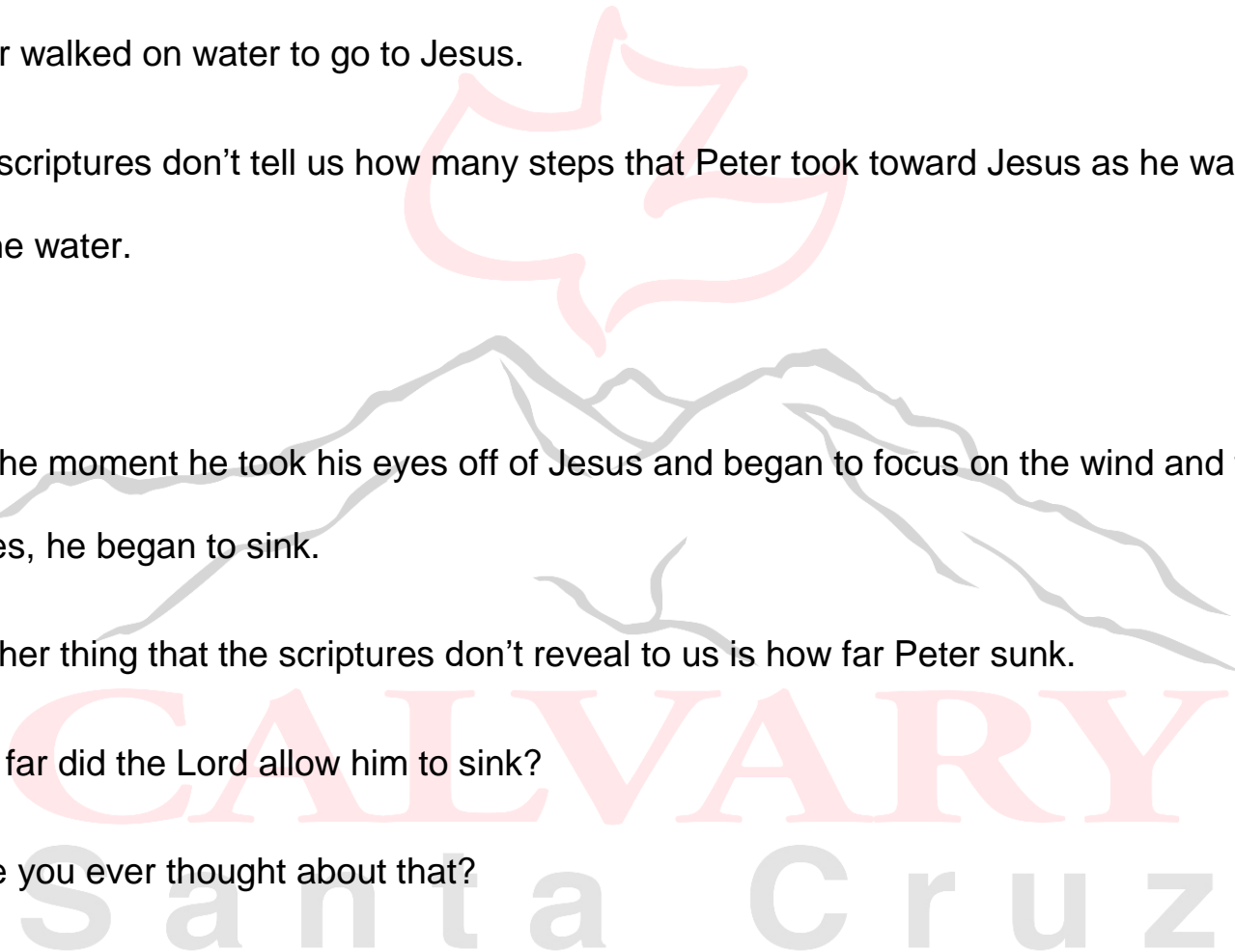
Have you ever thought about that?

Was it when the water started to go above his ankles?

Was it to his knees?

Was it to his waste?

Was it to his chest?



Was it until his chin?

Church, some of you are waste deep in your storm. Some of you are up to your chest in your storm.

But listen to what Peter did

He called out to Jesus, Lord, save me!!!

And Jesus **immediately** stretched out His hand to save Peter.

In verse 20, I had you make a note that John states that Jesus spoke the words, It is I

In the Greek – this Jesus saying “I AM”

21 Then they **willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.**

Church, notice that the scriptures do not tell us that Jesus jumped into the disciple's boat.

Jesus didn't force Himself onto the boat.

The disciples received Him willingly

One of the things that we have seen over and over again, during our study of the gospel of John, is that John points out that one of the biggest issues that keep men from God is the “will”

You see church, our flesh wants to be self-willed

We want to do things our way and in our own time

I know what the bible says but....

We don't want to give up control of our life to God.

Think about the question that Jesus asked the lame man at the pools of Bethesda in our study a few weeks ago.

Jesus said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

Do you have the will to be made well.

To the religious ruler,

Jesus challenged them

(Jn 5:39–40 NKJV) —39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

John opened the gospel with this truth:

(Jn 1:11–12 NKJV) —11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Church, the disciples received Jesus willingly, and so too, we can either receive Him willingly or say, thanks but no thanks, but I am going to do this without you

I am going to continue to row / I am going to continue to do it my way

I will find my own way back to the shore in the midst of the storm.

The other accounts tell us that at the moment that Jesus stepped into the boat – the wind and the waves calmed down and they began to worship Him.

Truly, You are the Son of God.

And in an instant, they arrived at their destination.

Think about the purpose of this sign.

The disciples left Bethsaida with the people wanting to crown Jesus as an earthly king.

However, In a flash, they realized – JESUS IS MORE! Than an earthly king

He isn't less than they had hoped – He is infinitely MORE than they could have imagined!

He isn't just some monarch over a petty Middle Eastern nation – He's the Lord of Heaven & Earth.

He isn't the One who abandoned them on a boat, He's the One who comes to them in their time of need.

Don't miss the lesson here – Jesus is more!

As the disciples stepped out of the boat onto the shore of Capernaum, they saw a different Jesus than the One they'd left on the other side of the lake.

Oh, He was the same, but not in their understanding!

Their disappointment with Him as an earthly king was replaced with a fervent awe of Him as Lord over Creation.

Church,

Are you willing to take Him into the boat of your life

He doesn't want you to allow Him into the boat of your life and for you to put Him in a little corner – He wants you to realize that He is the One navigating your life.

We need to grasp that...

He sent you where you are

He sees you where you are

He comes to you where you are

He speaks to you where you are

He is willing to be right besides where you are

He will safely guide you until you reach the heavenly harbor

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word

and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

