

GRACE SO AMAZING TO FOLLOW

GRACE SO AMAZING TO FOLLOW JESUS
EVEN THROUGH THE STORMS

Jn. 6:66-69

Jn. 6:66 From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Last week we began looking at this chapter to consider what the Bible says about the motive of the followers of Christ. Some followed Him due to the sensationalism of His miracles. Some followed Him simply out of selfishness for what they could personally benefit. Some followed Him from a faulty perspective of false supposition. And a few followed Him due to a proper understanding of His purpose and relationship with mankind according to the Scriptures.

We observed the feeding of the 5,000, the only miracle found in all four of the gospels.

This morning we continue looking at chapter six to observe the submissiveness of the disciples and the ramifications of them following God's will, even through the storms of life.

I. THE SUBMISSIVENESS OF THE DISCIPLES WHILE FOLLOWING

Jn. 6:16 And when even was *now* come, his disciples went down unto the sea,

17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.

Mt. 14:22 And straightway **Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side**, while he sent the multitudes away.

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

- ❖ Jesus directed His disciples to get into a ship and head to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.
- ❖ The disciples were submissive to follow the Lord Jesus and His will.
- ❖ The disciples, who were fishermen, were accustomed to such activities.

- ❖ While they were in the ship, Jesus “sent the multitudes away” and “he went up into a mountain apart to pray...”
- ❖ Believers should remember that Jesus is our Intercessor.

Rom. 8:34 Who *is* he that condemneth? ***It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.***

II. THE STORM FOR THE DISCIPLES WHILE FOLLOWING

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

Mt. 14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

- ❖ John's gospel gives a brief, summarized version of the disciples following the Lord's will.
- ❖ Mark's gospel gives a few more details.

Mark 6:47 And **when even was come**, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.

48 And **he saw them toiling in rowing**; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about **the fourth watch** of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

- ❖ Both gospels indicate that while the disciples were in the center of God's will, a storm arose.
- ❖ Mark's gospel indicates that Jesus "saw them toiling in rowing." He knew where they were, what they were doing, and the situation they were facing.
- ❖ Jesus did not immediately rescue the disciples, going to them "about the fourth watch" or between 3:00 am and 6:00 am.

The four watches of the night were as follows:

1st (6 pm – 9 pm);

2nd (9 pm – 12 am);

3rd (12 am – 3 am);

4th (3 am – 6 am).

- ❖ The disciples were tossed by the waves for several hours before the Lord came and calmed the sea.
- ❖ Believers are to walk by faith AND to wait by faith.

Psa. 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psa. 33:20 Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he *is* our help and our shield.

Psa. 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

III. THE SECURITY OF THE DISCIPLES WHILE FOLLOWING

Jn. 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**.

20 But he saith unto them, **It is I; be not afraid**.

21 Then **they willingly received him into the ship**: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

Mt. 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**.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid**.

Mt. 14:32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

Mark 6:51 And **he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased**: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

52 For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

- ❖ The experienced fishermen were afraid during the storm, and during their deliverance.
- ❖ Perhaps the method of deliverance, walking on the water, was shocking to their logic.

Mark 6:51b “...they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.”

Mt. 14:26 “...they were troubled...and they cried out for fear.”

❖ The disciples had just witnessed the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 but failed to consider it. Why? “...for their heart was hardened.”

Mark. 6:52

❖ Like the disciples, believers today are prone to take God’s daily blessings for granted and forget how He is always faithful to deliver His children.

Summary

ORDER OF EVENTS IN Jn. 6

1. Trip across the Sea of Galilee and feeding of the 5,000, Jn. 6:1-15.

Jesus questions the followers regarding their motive for following. He revealed that some follow to see sensational events; some follow for selfish reasons; some follow Him due to faulty suppositions; and some follow Him because of submission to spiritual truth.

2. Return trip by ship, storm, Jesus walking on the water, and calming the storm, 6:16-21.

Jesus' disciples are tested while following His will, exhibiting consistency in following Him. He revealed His power and protection over His disciples. He gives us calm in the midst of the storm.

Conclusion

Mt. 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

- ❖ Though the disciples had hardened hearts in not considering the feeding of the 5,000, the Lord Jesus still delivered them from the storm.
- ❖ When Jesus entered the ship, the disciples had full assurance of motivation to worship Him and knowing “...Of a truth thou art the Son of God”.
- ❖ The true follower, for the right reason, will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Acts 8:36 And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, **If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.** And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**