

Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 4:06 PM

Subject: Last Nite's MOB Session

In our lesson last nite, covering John 6:1-21, the Apostle John records two more "signs" (or miracles)--"among many others that Jesus performed, in the presence of His disciple"--offering more proof that He was indeed the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing on Him one might have "life in His name" (20:30-21)!

First, in 6:1-15, we see the only miracle of Jesus that's recorded in all four gospels--and one that most of us probably remember since childhood--the "feeding of the 5,000." This was the third miracle He performed in His native Galilee where people thought they knew who He was! Wasn't this Jesus, the "son of Joseph"--the carpenter? But He was healing the sick, and teaching "many" strange and amazing things, and now He had just miraculously fed a whole multitude! Who was He? Maybe, just maybe, some people were saying, He's the "prophet" that Moses talked about (in Deut. 18:15) that "was to come into the world"--and maybe we should make Him "king"--and have it all! Right now!

And so Jesus, who already planned to use this event as a "stage setter" for His discourse on the "bread of life,"--being who He was (and is)--"perceived" what they were thinking and quietly "withdrew Himself to the mountain alone" (Mathew's account says "to pray"), after instructing His disciples to get in a boat and cross the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, which served as a kind of headquarters for His Galilean ministry.

Well, you all remember what happened next! The disciples, though several were experienced fishermen, struggled greatly through the wee hours of the morning (Mathew says the "fourth watch," or sometime between 3 and 6 a.m.)--desperately trying to make it across to their destination! And then--wow! Jesus appeared, walking on the water! John, who was one of those present, admits it! They "were frightened"--these tough manly guys! But Jesus said "It is I! Be not afraid!" Matthew tells about how Peter then "got out of the boat and walked on the water" himself--however briefly! Until he "saw the wind" and had to be rescued, by Jesus! But once in the boat, the storm ceased! So how did the disciples respond? Matthew reports that they "worshipped Him!" And said: "You certainly are the Son of God!"

One of the commentaries I read said that this was the first time the disciples truly worshipped Him and that their worship was joined by their confession!

And so, what more can we say about these two great "signs" or miracles that we found in our text? Both fit John's purpose so clearly and so well (well, really, God's purpose, since what John wrote is all divinely "inspired" by Him!). The "feeding of the 5,000" basically sets the stage--and prepares the crowd (well, maybe not so well!)--for Jesus' discourse on the "bread of life" (which we'll be considering in next week's lesson)! And the "walking on the water" incident (like everything else Jesus said and did!) prepared the disciples for what was ahead! What's ahead, in our next lesson, are words Jesus spoke that were "difficult"--certainly for the crowd, but even for His disciples to understand and accept! And John writes that "many of His disciples withdrew and were no longer walking with the Lord!"

But before we go there, let's not forget some of the lessons we can take with us from our study of John 6:1-21:

1 - From the "feeding of the 5,000," we have to realize that "all things are possible with God!" And like the kid with the five loaves and two fish, we need to see too that "little is much when God is in it!" (There's a song about that!)

2 - And from the "walking on water" incident, we probably need to recognize how important it is to "look for Jesus" in the middle of "storms" that inevitably come into our lives! (Isa. 43:1-2 says "...when (not if) you pass through the waters, I will be with you...!")

Well, on to Lesson #15, men!

Have a great week!

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