

John 6

Sunday 8/1/2021

Now, if you have your Bibles, we want to go back to John chapter 6. You will remember last week we looked at an incredible aspect of the great miracle, the feeding of the 5,000. We looked at it and we really went behind the scenes. Upon further study together, we saw that not everybody in that story had the right attitude and the right motive when it came to their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

I can tell you, and I know that many of you understand this who work with people, many times in the lives of God's people, things are not always what they appear to be. Many times when you are working with somebody, you have to actually peel back the layers to get to the real issue. It is unfortunate because in that time, a lot of things can happen, a lot of things can go south, but that is the way human nature is. They back then, like here, will just use God and His Word and His church to get what they want and care nothing about this ministry or any ministry. They know and have learned how to say all the right things.

As we saw in Isaiah 29:9-13 last week, they just give Him lip service. They tell God what they think He wants to hear. They honor Him, the Bible says in that passage, with their lips, but their heart is far from Him. All He is to them, and we talked about this last week, and this was really the crux of what was going on with the feeding of the 5,000, all that those people were, and many, many people today, all God is to them is that spiritual meal ticket. You get what you want from Him, but you are not willing to give anything back to Him.

God's people get so complacent in their Christian lives, and it is something that everybody has to guard against. They totally forget the day that they got saved and what all God has done for them. They treat their salvation like we do when we get a new car, or somebody gets a new house, or a lady gets a new dress, or a guy gets a new set of golf clubs, or a ball bat, or whatever the case may be. It is so exciting at the moment that we obtain it, but in time, the newness wears off, and it no longer is that important to you. Everything begins to deteriorate. The golf clubs sit in the garage. The car gets a fender bender, and the new dress gets worn several times, and pretty soon it is nothing special anymore.

I would never presume to speak for anybody, but I will speak for myself. I have never gotten over the day I got saved. I know that it is a thing where that should be what every Christian does. You never get past that day.

I. Five Important Days in the Bible

A good study to take in your Bible at some point concerning our lives would be a study of days in the Bible. Fundamentally, there are five important days in the Bible that we all should at least know and understand.

1. First of all, obviously the most important will be the day of our salvation. Has there ever been a time in your life when you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior? That is day number one. Without that, you do not want to get into the next days. It is a thing where that is

so vital that everybody understands that salvation is the only way that you are ever going to get not only eternal life, but anything that God has for you. That will be the most important day to us, or it should be.

2. The next day in the Bible you are going to find, and this is not really in any order, will be the day of the Lord. You will find that throughout the Word of God. Sometimes it is called that day or the day, but the day of the Lord will always be a reference to the second coming of Christ. That is God's day, and that is the most important day to the nation of Israel. It is actually the most important day to God because He comes back to get Israel, His nation.
3. And then the third one is the day of Jesus Christ. Sometimes it is called the day of Christ, but that will be the rapture of the church. That is, after my salvation, that is the most important day to me. I do not know about you, but I got up this morning, I was prepared to preach, but I was hoping I would not have to. I was hoping that the Lord would come, and if there ever was a time that we need to have the Lord come back, it is the time that we are living in. So you find the day of Jesus Christ, and after my salvation, that is the most important day to me.
4. Then you have the day that God will get you alone. A great example of that would be Genesis 32:24. We see a man by the name Jacob whose life really represents our life in many, many, many ways. Jacob means schemer. Jacob was always figuring the angles to get what he wanted and really did not care much about what God wanted. He is a manipulator. He is someone who always looks at his own benefit more than he does anything that God wants him to do. But God had a plan for him. He is obviously one of the great patriarchs of the Bible, and without Jacob we would not have the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel.

So in spite of Jacob's indifference, God one day, and it is found in Genesis 32:24, and it simply says,

Genesis 32:24

And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

It is at that point that God dealt with Jacob about what He really wanted Jacob to do. Jacob wrestled with God, just like many of God's people wrestle with Him today with what God wants us to do. But at the end result, the Bible says that he embraced God, and at that point God changes his name. You have heard me say it many, many times. There are five people in the Bible who God changes their name, and when He does, it always signifies something, some major change in their life. It always signifies that in most cases, things are going to get better. In a couple of cases, things got worse. But in Jacob's case, it was the turning point. The time in your life and my life that may be the turning point is when God has to get you alone. We manipulate, we tell God what He wants to hear, we play the game, but suddenly God has something for you, and then He is going to get you alone.

5. Now the next day is probably the worst day, and that will be the day that God leaves you alone. That will be example of Cain. There are many examples in the Bible, but in Genesis 4:16, you find where it says:

Genesis 4:16

And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

He never comes back. The worst day of your life as a Christian will be the day that you get so involved in the spirit of falsehood, that you deceive yourself beyond belief, and finally you get the lie that you want out of Ezekiel 13 like we saw last week, and God leaves you alone. Now you are left to your own devices. God now is not injecting Himself into your life. This is called in the Bible the law of human collapse.

II. The Spirit of Falsehood and Deception

Last week we talked about the spirit of falsehood, and I talked about the spirit of deception, and I showed you and talked to you how that families, moms and dads, will put that spirit of falsehood in play in their family. It will in time destroy the family. Many times they will get the spirit of falsehood, and from the spirit of falsehood comes the spirit of deception. They deceive themselves, and that spirit permeates the family.

Having said that, talking about Jacob, let me show you the principle of how that works. Jacob is a schemer. He schemed to get the birthright from his brother. He deceived his own father to do that. Where did he get the spirit of deception when you read the passage? From his mother. His mother had put in play in that family the spirit of falsehood and the spirit of deception. He picked up on it, and he did it.

But that story does not end there. As he has twelve boys, and you know the story of the twelve boys and Joseph, how that they sell Joseph down into slavery. The deception and the spirit of deception started with his mom. It went to Jacob, and then Jacob passed it on to his boys. Because when his boys finally get rid of Joseph, they are going to kill him. But they do not kill him. They sell him to the Midianites, and he goes down into Egypt. So what do they do? They take a goat skin or a lamb skin, kill a lamb, cut the skin off, take the blood, and put it on Joseph's clothes, and take it back to their daddy and say, he got killed. It was always interesting to me that that lamb skin is the same thing that Jacob used to deceive his daddy.

You see, when the spirit of falsehood and deception starts in your family, you will pass it down to the generations. There are three generations right there: Jacob's mom, Jacob, and then his boys. Not only will you pass on the spirit of falsehood or the spirit of deception to your own family, but every generation it gets passed on to, it gets worse. You smoke cigarettes, your kids will smoke marijuana. Those kids smoke marijuana, the next ones will do crack. It gets down. It is the law of human collapse. If God does not inject Himself into your family and into your life, this is what happens. Incredible. Absolutely incredible. And that is not even our message today.

III. The Storm on the Sea of Galilee

Today, I want to go back to right after this great miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. Let us read John 6:16-21.

John 6:16-21

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.

And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.

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.

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

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

This will be another great story. We will need to learn some things from here that are going from last week. Here is the storyline. They have the feeding of the 5,000. After that great miracle, He directs them to go down into the sea and get into a little boat. It is evening. That is six o'clock in the afternoon or in the evening. Now they are out on the sea and a terrible storm comes up and it almost sinks them. Then through the storm, they see Jesus walking on the water and He comes and calms the storm, and all is well.

Like the feeding of the 5,000, this is another story that most people are aware of. There are certain stories in the Bible that whether you are lost or whether you are saved or whether you do not have any relationship with God at all, you have been in church or around church or in Sunday school as a kid enough to know that there are certain stories in the Bible you recognize. The feeding of the 5,000 is one of them. Noah's ark is another one. And Daniel and the lion's den. Sometimes the feeding is called the feeding of the 5,000. Sometimes it is called the miracle of the loaves and the fishes. And everybody remembers that Jesus walked on the water.

Now, to fully understand this great story and to get all that we need to get out of it, we need to apply another key rule in studying your Bible. When it comes to this storm, them in the boat, there are three accounts of this in the Gospels. There is one here in John 6, which I just read. There is another one in Matthew 14. And then there is one in Mark 6. There is none in Luke.

Let me explain how you do this because there are going to be times in your Bible where you find two stories in two Gospels, sometimes four, sometimes three like this one, or sometimes just one. The way you do that, if you have multiple accounts and you want to get the whole story down, what you have to do is you have to get the three accounts laid out side by side. What you want to do is you want to start with the one that gives you the most detail. For us today, that will be Mark 6:41-56. That is where you want to start. You want to start with the one that gives you the most detail, and then you add the other two into it, and by doing that, that will give you a complete picture. That is how you do it right.

So let us go back to Matthew for a moment and read that account, and then we are going to jump into the most detailed account. Matthew 14:22-27.

Matthew 14:22-27

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.

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.

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

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

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

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

Now once we have those two down, and those are the limited ones, now let us look at Mark 6:41-56. This is the detailed one. Then we are going to put John 6 and Matthew 14 into the mix and we are going to see a great story picture come forth here.

Mark 6:41-56

And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.

And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.

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.

And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.

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.

But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:

For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

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.

And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore.

And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him, and ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was.

And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

Let us pray. Father, help us today to take these three places and to learn not only how to put the Bible together in situations like this, but learn this great story. There is so much here that we need to know. This story may seem that it is about the apostles in a boat in a storm, but it is really much more than that. This is the picture of us. This is the picture of where we are at and who we are and the struggles that we face in everything that we do. We pray now, Father, your blessings to plan this time and we will give you the honor and the glory and the praise. In Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen.

IV. Spiritual Lessons from the Storm

When we get all three places together, and we, as the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 2:13-14, we are now comparing Scripture with Scripture. We see an incredible story for each of us unfold. There are a number of things that I want to identify here and then we are going to put this whole thing together. So stay with me here.

- 1.) Identify this body of water.
- 2.) The Lord Jesus constrains them.
- 3.) A terrible storm hits.
- 4.) They are terrified.
- 5.) Jesus walks on water.

That is the story in a little more detail than the storyline I gave you a moment ago. But now let us put on our spiritual eye. Let us get on our Holy Spirit cap and let us really look at this and see what we have here today because within this story is an incredible story. What you have here, with a trained eye, as we walk back down through this, see what you can pick out. What we have here is an incredible picture of our own personal relationship with Christ and our labor in the ministry for Him.

In your hymnal there you will have a number of songs that always equate back either directly or indirectly to this story. "In the sweet by and by when we meet on that beautiful shore," see. In your hymnal page 213 you have "Jesus is the shelter in a weary land, a shelter in a time of storm." You are going to find all through the Bible and Christianity, you are going to find that this story is illustrated in the songwriters because of what it actually represents.

There are a number of things that you need to get down out of this story today. So if I were you, I would get ready, get your little pencil out, get your notebook out, mark these things down. Or if you just want to sit back and enjoy it, you can get it online later and go back through it again, which you will probably have to do anyhow because as fast as I speak, you know you will probably not get it down.

Let me begin by saying this. They go into a storm. My dear friend, there are two reasons as a Christian that a storm will come into your life and I think we need to start with that. There are two fundamental reasons why you and me as a child of God will have storms come into our lives. I will be honest, most of God's people do not understand what I am about to say. They do not see God working in their life in any way, shape or form. They have no spiritual discernment of what really happens. When some catastrophe befalls them in their life, they are left without a clue. Many times it leads to them to get mad at God. Many times it leads to bring them back to God. But having said that, you know there are two basic reasons.

- 1.) The first thing God will put a storm in our lives is to have us to grow by.
- 2.) The second storm will be God's chastisement in your life.