

- Church Web Site

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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Many people come to Christ in the hopes that He will make them happy.
 - They struggle with personal problems and they hear that Jesus can help,
 - So they trust in Him to gain the peace and joy that they long for.

- Or, they're in an unhappy marriage or having problems with their kids and they heard that Christ can help, so they decided to **“try Christ.”**
- Whatever the need, they want Christ **to make them happy.**

- But after they come to Christ, they find that the problems get worse, not better.
- Things aren't exactly like they hoped.
 - If only they had known.

- The crucial question in life to answer is Jesus' question to the disciples
- “*But who do you say that I am?*”
(**Matthew 16:15**)

- If Jesus is who He claimed to be and who the Scriptures show Him to be, **then we *must* follow Him** as Savior and Lord,
- Even if it results in being **tortured** and **killed**.

- The Bible is quite clear that many godly saints have suffered terribly because of their faith.
- ***“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”***
(2 Timothy 3:12)

- The main reason for following Christ is not because He can make you happy.

- But because *He is the way,
the truth,
and the life*
(**John 14:6**).

- John wrote his Gospel

- ***“so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”***

(John 20:31)

- It's important that we believe in Jesus for the right reasons

- And that we may know Him as He is,

- Not as we might wish for Him to be.

- John follows the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 with the miracle of Jesus walking on the water,
- But he gives a compressed version of the story.

- For example,
- John doesn't tell us that Jesus compelled the disciples to get into the boat.
- He doesn't tell us that Jesus sent the multitude away
- Or that He was praying on the mountain.

- He omits Mark's comment that Jesus saw the disciples straining at the oars
 - Or that He intended to pass them by when He came to them on the water.
 - He doesn't say that the disciples thought that they were seeing a ghost
 - Although he does say that they were frightened
(**Mark 6:48**)

- He doesn't mention Peter's walking on the water (Matthew 14:28-31).
- He doesn't tell us that the storm was instantly stilled when Jesus got into the boat.

- **And it's puzzling**
why John,
who wants us to believe
that Jesus is the Son of God,
omits the disciples'
worshipful response,
“***You are certainly***
***the Son of God!*”
(**Matthew 14:33**).**

- Also, John doesn't offer any comment on why he includes this story.
- He just gives it in this compressed form
- And then the following narrative goes back to the feeding of the 5,000, as Jesus expounds on His being the bread of life.

- So you have to **ask**,
- “**Why** did John include this sign in his Gospel?”
- **What** does he want us to take away from meditating on it?”

- One clue to these questions is what John told us in

John 1:14,

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- John reports this miracle so that we, too, will see Jesus' glory **and trust Him in life's storms.**

- The disciples were confused and disappointed with Jesus' response to the multitude after He fed them with the loaves and fish.
- The crowd proclaimed Him to be the prophet of whom Moses spoke
- And they wanted to take Him by force and make Him king (**John 6:14-15**).

- The disciples had placed all of their hopes in this Galilean carpenter-prophet as the promised Messiah-King, who would deliver His people.
- They were expecting Him to establish that kingdom at any moment

- This was what the disciples had been waiting for!
- But rather than capitalizing on the mood of the crowd,
- Jesus forced the disciples to get into the boat and head back toward Capernaum,
- And then sent the multitude away
- And went up on the mountain by Himself.

- **What was He thinking?**
 - And then, to make matters worse, after Jesus forced them to get in the boat **and put out on the lake without Him,**
- **A strong wind came up** against them.

- Here they were, trying to help bring in God's promised kingdom and to help people see that Jesus is the promised Messiah-king.
- But now, they were caught in this storm.

- Then Jesus came to them walking on the water to teach them that even though He wasn't the kind of Messiah-king they may have hoped for, He still is the Lord of all creation.

- They needed to get to know Him as He is,

- Not as they had hoped that He would be.

- The lesson for us is:

- Jesus does not want followers who use Him for their own purposes,
- But followers who know Him and trust Him for who He is.

- Moses was the revered leader who had led Israel out of bondage in Egypt.
- If Jesus was the prophet of whom Moses had prophesied maybe He could usher in God's kingdom where Israel would enjoy peace and prosperity.

- But they didn't want to repent of their sin and submit to Him as Lord.
- Rather, they wanted a king who would improve their living situation.
 - In short, they had misconceptions about who Jesus is and they wanted to use Him for their own purposes.

- Even the disciples fell into this wrong way of thinking about Jesus.
- When Jesus told them that He had to go to Jerusalem, where He would suffer and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

- But “Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him, saying,

‘God forbid it, Lord!’

- But Jesus rebuked Peter:

“Get behind Me, Satan!”

You are a stumbling block to Me;

- Peter had a

wrong conception of Jesus

that didn't include the cross.

Jesus wants
His followers
to know Him
and trust Him
for who He is.

Isaiah 55:8-9,

“*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,*’ declares the Lord.

‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”

- One test of whether I am truly submitting to God's ways with me is:
- Whether I am grumbling
 - Or giving thanks
 - When things don't go my way.

- John tells us that Jesus withdrew to **the mountain** by Himself alone.
 - The disciples got into the boat and started to cross the sea of Galilee **without Him.**

- John adds the puzzling statement (6:17),
“It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.”
- So the disciples were on the **lake** in the **dark** in a **storm**, without **Jesus**.

- Not only was Jesus not with them,
- He also let them struggle against the storm for many hours.
- They were exhausted and wondering what they should do.
 - At that point of great need, Jesus came to them, walking on the sea.

- But if they had been in that situation, they would not have seen His glory and power when He came walking on the water.
- That experience made it worth all the toil and anxiety.”

- Although such trials **are never enjoyable** at the moment.
- Contrary to what **might be expected**,
- Have we not learned **that true growth** comes through **affliction**
 - And not **happiness.**

- Jesus often

allows

storms in our lives

so that we may

grow.

- One of the main lessons of the Christian life is that God's purpose is not centered on me and my glory.
 - It's about Jesus and His glory!
 - *God's purpose is to sum up all things in Christ* (**Ephesians 1:10**)

- The disciples went from **a mountaintop experience** of the feeding of the 5,000 to the valley of **a violent storm.**
 - Jesus knew **what He would do** with the feeding of the 5,000 (6:6),
 - And He knew **what He would do** in the storm.

- They thought that they were alone,
- But they were really not alone.
 - They learned that Jesus was fully aware of their circumstances and He would come to them in His time.

- God's providence

means that
we've got to trust Him

- When we

- can't see Him

- Or figure out any reason
why we're in the storm.

- Our trials
cannot
prevent Him
from coming to us,
- Even if we
can't imagine
how He will do it.

- At the same time,
it is not always His will
to deliver us from trials.
- He didn't deliver
John the Baptist
from Herod's sword.
- He later delivered
Peter from prison,
- But not James.

- Hebrews 11:33-37
by faith many experienced deliverance.
- But others were tortured and died.
 - Whether it's God's will
to deliver us
- Or to take us to glory through death,
 - We should know and trust
His mighty power.

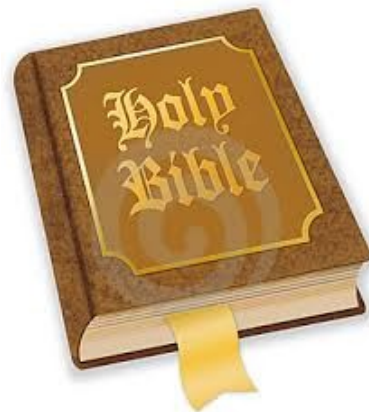
- So, why do you follow Jesus?
- Is it so that you can use Him to make you happy?
 - Or, is it because He is the sovereign Lord.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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