

- 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.

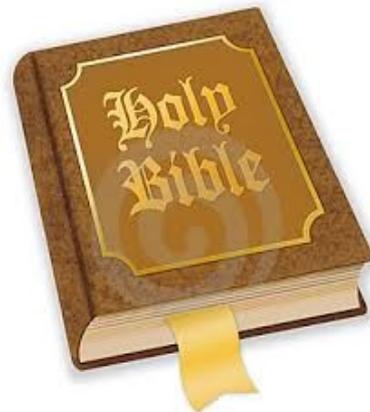
- So, why do you follow Jesus?
- Is it so that you can use Him to make you happy?
 - Or, is it because He is the sovereign Lord.

- **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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