**BCM Bible Study – April 10 & 11, 2018**

**Sign #5: Jesus Walks on Water (John 6:11-27)**

Recap: There are two miracles in John 6, first: the feeding of the 5,000 which also gets unpacked in the same chapter. However, in between Jesus’ Bread of Life sermon and the actual sign itself is another miracle, a seemingly small miracle in the midst of a bigger one. To set the stage, we’re going to read the last place we see Jesus before the miracle takes place.

**Read John 6:11-15**

* Throughout the gospels, Jesus often is telling people to keep quiet about healings and miracles, which is something we call the “messianic secret”. This is an instance in John where the people who are following him actually seem to believe that he is the messiah (based on the miracle of feeding the 5,000) and want to make him king.
  + Why would they want the messiah to be king? (politics)
  + What are the people ultimately seeking from Jesus?
* Why do you think Jesus withdrew when the people reacted so strongly to his miracle?
* How does v. 15 reveal Jesus’ identity as divine?

*The whole time, the people following Jesus have their own plan in mind for him and what he can do for them.*

* To this day, we still often run to Jesus because of what we think he might bring us and now he might improve our lives… what are some ways that you still fall into this trap?
* What does it look like to change from a miracle seeking mindset to a Jesus seeking mindset?
* Why ought Jesus himself be our treasure without any miracles?
  + What things can we do to lead ourselves to treasure Jesus more than we currently do?

**Walking On Water:**

**Read John 6:16-21**

* What are some of the details the story that stand out to you?
  + i.e. it was dark, Jesus had not yet come to them, they were frightened, Jesus saying “it is I”, etc.

*Note: We know from Matthew 8:24 that the disciples have already been through another storm with Jesus, one where He was actually in the boat and calmed a storm when the disciples woke him up because they were afraid. Now we find the disciples alone in a boat in a wind storm.*

**Read the same story from Mark 6:45-52**

* What details from Mark stand out to you that were not included in John?
* What does the sign say about Jesus’ divinity?
* What does this sign say about Jesus’ relationship to the disciples?
* In v. 48 we see that Jesus’ meant to pass by the disciples, but he didn’t. What do you learn about Jesus’ character from this instance?
  + “Jesus wouldn't turn a stone into bread to satisfy His own hunger, but he would multiply loaves and fishes to feed a hungry multitude. Jesus wouldn't cast Himself off the pinnacle of the temple to glorify Himself, but he would walk on the water to bring comfort to His disciples.” – David Guzik

Notice that Mark 6:48 tells us that Jesus could see them, he watched their struggle as they tried to get across the sea in the windstorm.

* Although sometimes we feel as though doing God’s work should be relatively easy because He sent us to do it, but that’s not always true. Sometimes he allows us to row through a difficult windstorm (Guzik, paraphrased)
  + Where is God asking you to do something that is difficult? What encouragement do you get from this account?
* Jesus just performed a miracle of providing food for over 5,000 people before sending the disciples across the sea. Here we find him performing another miracle that not only demonstrates His lordship over the elements, but also immediately provides for the disciples who are struggling in the windstorm (they are automatically delivered by arriving at the other side in **John 6:21**). Read **Philippians 4:19** together (ask everyone to read at the same time).
  + What is it that we ultimately ***need***?
  + Have you ever been disappointed in God by not feeling like he didn’t provide in the moment and later realized he actually did exactly what Philippians 4:19 said he will do?
  + What are some ways that we can remind ourselves (and each other) of this truth, that God provides all that we *need* in all circumstances?

Connecting walking on water and bread: “I think the reason for following the basket lesson with the boat lesson is to underline the basket lesson. The basket lesson is: You join Jesus in his ministry and there will always be just enough for you. You are not going to get rich here. We don’t get rich on the planet. We get one basket, just enough, a personal attention to you from Jesus Christ. You join him in his cause, he looks on you as an individual. I got a basket for you. I know what your need is tonight in the cell. I know what your need is in the dormitory. I know what your need is tonight. There will be a basket for you tonight and tomorrow and the next day and the next day.” – John Piper

**Conclusion:**

* How has learning about the signs changed the way you see Jesus?
* How has learning about the character of Jesus changed your faith thus far?
* What is the biggest takeaway that you’ve received from reading John so far?