

Seeking Jesus for the Wrong Reasons

John 6:15-26 (Page 75 in the BPB)

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³⁰Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these have been written 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 20:30-31)

Context:

Feeding of the Five Thousand (6:1-14)

The Bread of Life Discourse (6:25-65)

The Crowd

¹⁴Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.” (Deut. 18:15-19)

¹⁵So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone. (6:3)

Matthew 14:23 (see also Mark 6:46)

²³After He sent the crowds away,

He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

The Disciples

¹⁶Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷and after getting into a boat, they *started to* cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

Matthew 14:22 Jesus made (Lit. “compelled”) the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while he sent the crowds away.

¹⁸The sea *began* to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles,...

Mark tells that “the boat was in the middle of the sea (Mark 6:46) and that Jesus “came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them.” (Mark 6:48)

...they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. **(Matthew says that, “they were terrified, and said, It is a ghost! And they cried out in fear.”)**

²⁰But He said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.”

Matthew records that Peter said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” (14:28)

²⁹And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!” (Matt. 14:29-33)

Job 9:8 “Who alone stretches out the heavens
And tramples down the waves of the sea.” (Lit. “treads upon the heights of”)

²¹So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

Mark 6:51-52 ⁵¹Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, ⁵²for they had not gained any insight from the *incident of the loaves*, but their heart was hardened. (See also Mark 8:14-21)

“He caused the storm to be still,
So that the waves of the sea were hushed.
Then they were glad because they were quiet,
So He guided them to their desired haven. **(Psalm 107:29-30)**

The Crowd

²²The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but *that* His disciples had gone away alone.

²³There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

²⁴So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.

Question

²⁵When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

Jesus Reveals their true motives for seeking Him.

²⁶Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled."

Why was this story included between the feeding of the five thousand and the bread of life discourse?

1. Transition. It explains how Jesus and His disciples arrived at Capernaum.

2. It is tied to exodus and wilderness themes.

Possible "I AM" Statement

Exodus 3:14-15 in John 6:20 translated in the NASB and ESV as, "It is I" ("ego eimi" - Lit. "I am")

The Passover.

"Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews was near." (6:4)

The Crossing of the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:13ff

Manna/Bread

Exodus 16:1-7; John 6:26-40

The People Grumble

Exodus 16:1-7; John 6:41

Application:

1. What are our motives for seeking Jesus?

Job 1:9-11 & 2:4-5 Satan's accusation against Job is founded upon the truth that God protects and blesses Job. If these things were removed from Job's life, would he still worship God?

2. Doing what Jesus tells us to do does not mean that we will not experience tests and difficulties in life.

"It is in the midst of the storm that Jesus reveals Himself to His disciples."