

Andy Deane • 3/27/22
Come & See: John 6

Today we'll see how Jesus allows overwhelming, and even dark times, to remind us that He is who we need all of the time.

John 6:5-15: ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Jesus invites disciples into overwhelming situations to teach us to look to Him when we can't figure it out.

- When we can't figure it out, remember, He already has (v.6).
- When we can't figure it out, our calculations lack God (v.7).
- When we can't figure it out, just take the next faithful step of obedience in whatever small way you can (vv.8-9).
- One day you'll look back and see how Jesus calmly got you through what felt like an impossible situation (vv.10-13).

John 6:16-21: ¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." ²¹ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Jesus allows difficult times so that we can experience His power.

- There were 5 difficulties: *dark* (v.17), *strong winds* (v.18) *rough waters* (v.18) *rowed 3-4 miles* (v.19) *Jesus had not yet joined them* (v.17).
- 2 Corinthians 12:9, "...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
- How was it solved? Only 1 of those 5 difficulties changed: Jesus got in the boat (vv.19-21)
- Our circumstances may not change, but our realization of God's presence with us can change.
- In God's timing, you'll pass through the storm (v.21).

John 6:26-27: ²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

It's crucial to follow Jesus for the right reasons.

- Some followed because He healed the sick (v.3).
- Some followed because they wanted full bellies and a better life (v.26).
- Jesus Christ did not come to meet the desires we already had before we were born again. He came to change our desires.
- He did not come to just be useful to us, but also to be precious to us.

John 6:28-29; 51-53: ²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."... ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." ⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."

Jesus came not to give bread, but to be bread.

- To eat the living bread is a metaphor for believing in Jesus (v.51).
- Jesus came to be the thing that nourishes us and gives us life (v.53).

John 6:60; 66: ⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"... ⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

Some don't want to follow this Jesus. Are we willing to?

- Repenting of our selfish desires and following the way of Jesus is not an easy path.

John 6:67-69: ⁶⁷ "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

Only this Jesus can truly help us now and save us later.

Need prayer today? Have questions about following Jesus?

Our prayer team is available up front after service every Sunday.