

Message title: Lessons in Discipleship

Big Idea: Our goal & good is to know Him & be more like Him.

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John 6:15-42

John 6:15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

1. Pray more.

6:16 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. 18 Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing.

Matthew tells us in 14:22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

The sea in scripture = the world/chaos & the unknown.
Jesus disciplines His disciples with difficulties.

2. Persevere longer.

19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. 20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

Don't try to lessen the journey, just try to learn the lesson.

22 On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone—

23 however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks— 24 when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. 25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"

3. Purify further.

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

4. Prioritize eternally.

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He

sent.” **30** Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?” **31** Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” **32** Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” **34** Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” **35** And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. **37** All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. **38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. **39** This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing but should raise it up at the last day. **40** And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

41 The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” **42** And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

Discussion questions:

1. What can you describe about what Jesus was doing and the situation the disciples faced?
2. What does Jesus' prayer life teach us about prayer? When do you find it easiest or hardest to pray? Where could you add prayer?
3. The disciples rowed "3 or 4 miles" in the darkness before Jesus came. Why do you think Jesus waited so long? What might they have missed if He had come immediately?
4. Jesus confronted the crowd about their motives. What drew you to Jesus initially? Have any motives changed or matured since then?
5. Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life." What does it mean to "feed on Jesus" daily? How is it different from just knowing facts about Him?
6. Which point or lesson can you or should you apply in your life? Prayer, persevere, purify or prioritize?