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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- There were times when Jesus withdrew from the crowds.
- He was under continuous strain and needed rest.
 - He also needed time for prayer.
 - So he retreats to Bethsaida.
(John 5)



- From Capernaum to the other side of the Sea of Galilee was a distance of about four miles.
- The people had seen Jesus depart.
- Seeing the direction the boat was taking;
- They hastened around the top of the lake by land.

- The Jordan River flows into the north end of the Sea of Galilee.

- Two miles up the river they were able to cross over the Jordan river.

- Near the crossing was a village called Bethsaida

- Phillip was from Bethsaida.

- Here was to be the scene of a wonderful miracle.

- It was nine miles round the top of the lake to Bethsaida.
- And they made the journey with haste.
- The Feast of the Passover was near and there would be even bigger crowds on the roads at that time.

- The way the Jews took
was longer
but they avoided going through
Samaritan territory.

- It is likely that
the great crowd
was swelled by
the many pilgrims
on their way to the
Passover Feast.

- At sight of the crowd
Jesus' sympathy was kindled.

- They were
hungry and tired,
and they must be fed.

- Philip was from Bethsaida
so Jesus turned
to him for advise

as he
would have local knowledge.

(**John 1:44**)

- Philip's answer was disappointing.
- He said that even if food could be obtained it would cost more than two hundred denarii to give this vast crowd even a little each.

- A denarius was the standard day's wage for a working man.
- So Philip calculated that it would take more than six months' wages to even begin to feed a crowd like this.

- Then
Andrew

appeared on the scene.

- He had discovered a lad
with
five barley loaves
and
two little fishes.

- Barley bread
was the
cheapest of all breads
and was held in contempt.

- As barley was the
food of beasts.

- And the bread of
the poorest of the poor.¹⁴

- Palestine

- *A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; (Deuteronomy 8:8).*

- The failure of this crop was a national disaster (Joel 1:11).

- It was, and is, grown chiefly as feed for animals. (1 Kings 4:28),

- Oats being practically unknown.

- The fish would be **no bigger than sardines.**
- **Pickled fish from Galilee** were known all over the Roman Empire.
 - In those days fresh fish **was an unheard-of luxury,**
 - So the boy had his little pickled fish **to help get down the dry barley bread.**

- Not only were the thousands fed
we behold another wonder:

- **John 6:12**

*When they were filled,
he said unto his disciples,
Gather up the fragments that remain,
that nothing be lost.*

6:13 *Therefore they gathered them together,
and filled twelve baskets
with the fragments of
the five barley loaves,
which remained over and above
unto them that had eaten.*

- Does not this **same wonder** in different form transpire before our eyes:
 - We have become so familiar with it **that we fail to recognize it** as a perpetual proof of God's creative power.

- Consider the amount of food required daily for **a whole nation,** or a large city.
- **Where** do these stores come?
- **Who** ultimately provides them?
- **Who** feeds the teeming billions of the world?

- If we would but open our eyes we should see at each seed-time and harvest a perpetual wonder.
- Let us remember the words:
“*Give us each day our daily bread,*”
 - Realizing that we are ever dependent on Him.

- Many of the people continued to follow the Savior in expectation of repetitions of his miracles..

- They sought for the meat which perishes.

- Not for heavenly manna of which if a man eat he shall never hunger.

(John 6:27-33)

- The Jews were waiting for the prophet whom they believed Moses had promised to them.
 - **"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren, him you shall heed"** (**Deuteronomy 18:15**).
 - And they were dead right.
 - That was one of the signs of the Messiah.

- But the strange and sad thing was that when they reached that proper conclusion,
- They were willing to accept Jesus as that prophet.
 - But it was not so very long before another mob was clamoring:
"Crucify him! Crucify him!"
 - Why was it at that moment that the mob accepted Jesus?

- For one thing, they were eager to support Jesus when he gave them what they wanted.
- He had healed and fed them;
- And they would thereupon have made him their leader.
- But it would have been a bought loyalty.
 - And Jesus would not allow that.

- The attitude of that mob disgusts us.
- But are we so very different?
 - When we want comfort in sorrow,
 - Strength in difficulty,
 - Peace in turmoil,
 - Help in distress.
 - There is no one so wonderful as Jesus

- But when he comes to us **with demands for sacrifice,**
 - We want **nothing** to do with him.
- When we **examine** our hearts,
 - It may be that we find that **we too love Jesus**
 - For what we **can get out of him.**

- They wished to use him for their own purposes.
 - To mold him to their own dreams.
- They were waiting for the Messiah;
but they visualized him in their own way.

- Again, are we so very different?
 - When we appeal to Christ,
- Is it for our own schemes and ideas
- Or is it for humility and obedience?
 - Is our prayer:
"Lord, give me strength to do what you want me to do"
 - Or is it:
"Lord, give me strength to do what I want to do"?

- They would have followed Jesus at that moment because he was giving them what they wanted and they wished to use him for their own purposes.
- That attitude still lingers.
- We would like Christ's gifts without his Cross;
- We would like to use him instead of allowing him to use us.

- **John 6:14-15**

So when the men had seen the sign which he had done, they said:

- ***"Truly, this is the prophet who is to come into the world."***
 - ***So Jesus, aware that they were going to come and seize him to make him king, withdrew again to the mountain alone.***

- The feeding of the five thousand, is one of those signs that is recorded in all four Gospels.
- There must be some very special reason for this,
 - So what is it?

- There are a **few differences** in the way the story is presented,
- Which we would expect from **four** independent writers.

- **These diversities** provide evidence of the fact that the Bible is **the inspired Word of God,**
- If **Matthew, Mark, Luke,** and **John,** **planned to make up a story** about the Man called Jesus and impose it upon the world as a pretended divine revelation,

- They would have been very careful indeed to see that every incident was **related in exactly the same way.**
- But instead, there are differences according to **the viewpoint of each one.**

- After our Lord has fed the 5,000.
- The disciples get into their boat heading toward Capernaum.
 - They are expecting smooth sailing.
 - Why should anything go wrong after this wonderful event they have just witnessed?

- Capernaum was their destination;
- A place of comfort, a place of rest.
 - But suddenly they were subjected to the storm.
- Christians are to expect no exemption from storms and difficulties.

- The Sea of Galilee lies nearly **700 feet below sea level.**
- The surrounding hills rise abruptly **to about 2,000 feet above sea level.**
 - The sharp drop of **nearly 3,000 feet** from the tops of the hills to the surface of the lake
 - Creates ideal conditions **for sudden, violent storms** for which the Sea of Galilee is notorious
(Matthew 8:23-27).

- **Mark 6:48** (ASV)

**And seeing them
distressed in rowing,
for the wind was
contrary unto them,...**

- Let us picture their situation.
- They were **paralyzed** with fear,
 - They were out in the **middle of the sea.**

- They couldn't go back,
- And it was difficult to go forward.
 - It was too far to swim to the shore,
 - They were filled with despair.
- And remember, these were seasoned fishermen.

- They began their journey about **6:00 P.M.**,
- And we find them still rowing at **3:00 A.M.** in the morning.
- Still they are about **half-way across the lake.**

- The lake is about **seven miles wide** at its widest part,
- So that in eight or nine hours they had only made **some three and a half miles.**
- By this time they must have been **in a state of exhaustion** and bordering on despair.
 - **(John 6:19)**

- Sometimes we feel like the Psalmist David...

- **Psalms 13:1**

**How long will you forget me,
O LORD? For ever?**

**How long will you
hide your face from me?**

- We often want the Lord to work **on a different timetable.**

- **Our timetable.**

- But if He waits
three days
to come to Bethany,
- Or if He waits
nine hours
to show up in our storm,
- He'll be right on time!

- Now, something happened that **terrified** even seasoned fishermen.
- They were **familiar** with these types of storms.
- But they were certainly **not accustomed** to seeing human figures **walking on the water.**

- Not surprisingly, they were frightened, and cried out in terror,
{G_349}

”To cry out, to scream”

- “*It is a ghost!*”

(Matthew 14:26; Mark 6:49).

- An event of this nature is enough to make the hair stand on end and the blood run cold.

- Moses
divided the sea;
- Jesus
walked upon it!
- Some refuse this, saying,
"There was really
no miracle;
 - The disciples
were mistaken.

- The Lord was only walking on the shore near the vessel;
- And the superstitious fear of the disciples made them think he was walking on the sea;
- And they put ashore and took him on board, etc.

- As the disciples were two or three miles from shore, how could they have possibly seen the Lord walking on the shore at night and during a storm?
- It would have been impossible to distinguish anyone on shore.
 - Or to hold a a conversation with anyone on shore.

- Let us pause for a moment to notice one of John's deeper insights.
 - John is telling us how Jesus sees us.
 - Mark 6:48
And he saw them toiling ...
 - "saw"
{**Greek 1492**}
 - Means by implication to know: To be aware,
 - To understand.
- He was aware of their situation.

- Next, John tells us how well Jesus can see.

- John 6:19

So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs,...

- 1 furlong = 1/8 mile

- So 25 furlongs = 3.125 miles

- And 30 furlongs = 3.75 miles

- The hidden message is:

- We can't get far enough away from Him to where He cannot see us and know what we're going through.

- **John 6:19**

“ ... they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

- *walking* {**Greek 4043**}

- He was just taking a casual stroll.

- “drawing nigh,”
means that He was coming nearer and nearer to the ship.

- **Psalms 77:19**

**Your way is in the sea,
and your path in the great waters,
and your footsteps are not known.**

- **John 6:20.**
***But he said
to them,
It is I***
(literally, I am);
be not afraid.
- **Divine words**
for sure.
- **Words of comfort**
for sure.

- Words:
- In our darkest hour,
 - In our suffering,
- In the furnace of temptation,
 - On our death-bed,
- The same voice still rings.
 - Scattering doubt and fear.

- **John 6:21**

Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

- It is important to note that this

was **NOT** a rescue from the stormy sea.

- In fact, it was the **reverse!**

- **John 6:20**

*But he saith unto them,
It is I; be not afraid.*

- *They were willing therefore to receive him into the boat;*
- *and straightway the boat was at the land where they were going.*
- John abbreviated this wonder by omitting Peter's **walking on the water** to go to Jesus (**Matthew 14:28-31**),
- And Mark recorded that the apostles' **"heart was hardened"** (**Mark 6:52**).

- Let us consider Mark's account.

- Mark 6:51

And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

- 6:52 *For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.*

- We find the Apostles acting like us.
 - In that they were quick to forget.
 - They forgot what Jesus had done just a few hours earlier.
 - Possible due to the stress of the storm.

- However, Matthew gives a happy ending.

- ***The apostles***
confessed him

and

worshiped him

after he came aboard

(Matthew 14:31-33).

- Let us stop for a moment **to review the purpose of** each of the gospel writers:
 - **Matthew**
 - **Mark**
 - **Luke**
 - **John**

- Matthew emphasizes the promised Messiah.
- Mark emphasizes Jesus servant character.
- Luke emphasizes His humanity.
- John emphasizes Christ the Son of God.

- It is the simple fact of life that when Christ is there the storm becomes a calm,
 - Tumult peace,
 - What cannot be done is done,
 - The unbearable becomes bearable.

- John

is telling us:

- To walk with Christ
is to

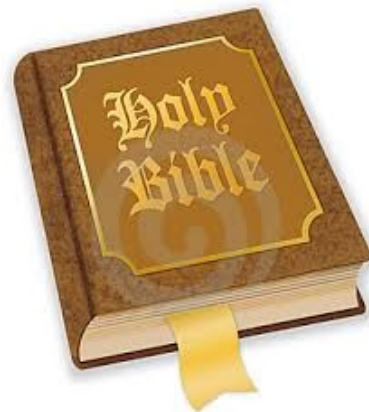
conquer the storm.

- **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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