



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 6:16-29
From Sermon 10.1.23

Read *John 6:16-29*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Having completed His greatest and most witnessed miracle up to this point in the Gospel, Jesus now retreats to avoid the crowd and for prayer. Sending the Apostles ahead on the Sea of Galilee is a total set-up. His next series of miracles are for them alone. The events of chapter 6 lead us, again, to the study of two distinct groups: Genuine disciples and false disciples. Time reveals all.

1. When Jesus said, "It is I", what were His actual words in Aramaic/Greek? I AM

1a. What would that mean to the Apostles (and to us)? God's character is revealed in His Name. He is eternal, sovereign, and all-powerful. Even in the storms and uncertainty, He is in control and never surprised.

2. Now add Matthew's account of the same event/miracle. Read *Matthew 14:28-33*. List and discuss all the miracles that take place in this one event.

- Jesus walks on water
- Peter walks on water
- The wind & storm stop at Jesus' command
- They are instantly at their location across the lake

3. What were the "Marks of Authenticity" highlighted in this account? Describe each.

- Faith: Hearing the voice of Jesus, Peter had the faith to do the impossible...get out of the boat
- Action: Real disciples don't just have some internal, metaphysical response to Jesus. Genuine conversion always results in doing, going, serving. See James 2:17-18
- Trust: Even when he faltered, Peter didn't look to self or friends for rescue...but Jesus.
- Listen: Jesus corrects Peter (all of them) and they listen vs making excuses for their doubt
- Worship: They ascribe to Jesus that which only Holy God deserves = worship, praise, devotion
- Proclaim: All of them, except Judas, will proclaim Jesus as Lord unto their deaths.

4. What is some of the wording and responses that separate the crowd from the committed? Lord vs. Rabbi, Son of God vs. great teacher/prophet, worship vs. merely follow/spectator...

5. False Disciples always want a Jesus of their own making, desire, and thinking. How are we seeing this in the "Church" even today? Various answers. The crowd wants a Jesus who is relative = changes with the times. "The definitions of sin have changed. God is all about inclusion and loving people just as they are." They want a Jesus who meets their needs, but requires nothing from them. Holiness is an archaic word that, they believe, has no bearing in the life of the church or the disciple. See Isaiah 5:20-21 & 55:8-9

6. Jesus taught about true and false disciples often. In Luke 8, He used the familiar parable of the soils to illustrate this sobering truth. Read the parable, note the group distinctions, and discuss. See Luke 8:4-8 & 11-15. Those who never hear or hear and instantly, forever reject it. Those who hear, like it on Sunday, but love their sin and fall away. Those who hear, love, and accept the Word, but even good things choke out true discipleship and they wither away.