

John 2021 #12 (7.11.21) #21057

John 6:1-21.

Teachable Moments

I. Two miracles that become teachable moments...

A. Background: Scene change...14 (Matt.14:13-21; Mk.6:32-44; Lk.9:10-17)

1. From Jerusalem back to Galilee, later in his ministry.
2. Jesus and his friends are tired, looking to get away for a bit.
3. They sail across the top of Sea of Galilee. From Capernaum on the northwest to the northeastern shore somewhere.
4. But the crowds follow on foot and press in. (*can't get away?*)

B. The Lord responds to a need for the hungry crowd. feeds the 5,000. 6:1-

1. *An impossible situation that arose in the course of good work.*
 - a) The crowd is huge, 10K or more. (5K men only. Matt.14:21)
 - b) Jesus embraced the situation as providential and a “teachable moment.”
 - c) He “tests” Philip. *Who assumes the provision must be money, but the Lord has more than one way to meet needs. Deut. 8:4, your clothing didn't wear out...*
2. *A troubling reaction that arose from a worldly mindset. 15*
 - a) He had been teaching them about the kingdom (Lk.9:11), but they misunderstood.
 - (1) Miraculous bread?? Like Moses? This must be the prophet from Deut.18:15.
 - (2) It's Passover (like a combination of Christmas, Easter, and 4th of July) and we could start an uprising against the Romans right here with this huge crowd!
 - b) Jesus is the King in God's kingdom, but that kingdom is not what the Jews thought. (Jn.18:36)
3. *This drove Jesus to prayer Matt.14:23.* Up the hill to pray.

C. He strengthens the faith of his weary disciples. walks on the water. 6:16-21

1. *A difficult situation encountered while obeying the Lord.*
 - a) He actually put them in the boat and sent them off (Mk.6:45)
 - (1) Did not want them influenced or pressured by the insurrectionist crowd?
 - b) The storm, the straining at the oars. Mark 6:48. 4th watch, 3-6am. *9 hours of rowing against the wind!*
 - c) Jesus walks out to them, but they are terrified, because they didn't get the point of the feeding of the 5K. (Mk.6:52)

D. He corrects the priorities of the wayward people. 6:22-29

1. *A significant moment that was lost on the crowds.*
 - a) Didn't see the “sign” but only the bread. 26
 - b) They had missed the point of the miraculous feeding—the point was Him.
 - c) Jesus obviously cared about hungry, broken, wandering (without a shepherd, Mk.6:34) people! That's why he fed and healed and taught them.
2. *But they could not see past this age to a deeper need. So, the Bread of Life Discourse...next week.*

II. How the Lord works with us...through teachable moments in stressful times.

A. He strengthened the disciples not by protecting them from stress, but by being with them in it. Matt.28:20

1. The venue for spiritual growth is daily life. Both of these events were due to unforeseen stress, during daily life.
2. The goal of life is not simply relief, but increased confidence in the Lord.
3. *Faithfully Stressed--this is the feeling of spiritual growth. It is not fun...*
4. *He suffered not so that we would not suffer, but so that when we do suffer, we become more like him. (Elizabeth Elliott)*

B. He taught the crowds about the kingdom (Lk.9:11) not by doing what they wanted, but by telling them what they needed. (People get mad at God for not doing what they want)

1. Spiritual healing from sin.
2. Spiritual nourishment from God's Word.
3. Spiritual leadership from God's Saving King.

III. Pastoral advice

A. Christians:

1. Don't just watch Jesus—*learn from him*. Mk.6:52; Matt.11:27-30
 - a) Mk.6:52. The disciples hadn't learned from the bread thing.
 - b) A disciple is one who learns *from* Jesus, learns to think like Jesus and thus becomes more like Jesus in faith. Matt.11:25-30.
2. Don't assume you are on your own—*because you are not*.
 - a) Both of these “teachable moments” reflect the Lord’s personal involvement with his people *when they do not feel that reality*.

B. Pre-Christians:

1. Don't try to draft Jesus—*Listen to him*.
 - a) He's not the “lord” we want him to be. He is the True Lord. The one we need.
 - b) *We want food, healing, and leadership in this age. But there is more to life than these things.*
2. Don't try to impress Jesus—*Believe in him*. 6:29
 - a) You can't impress God. Just trust him.
 - b) *The first step of obeying God is trusting Jesus Christ personally and totally.*