

John tells the story of Jesus in his gospel, and he tells of seven miraculous signs that reveal Jesus' glory as the Messiah, the Christ.

- In Sign One, Jesus turned Water to Wine, which **"...revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (John 2:11)**
- An Official with great faith begged Jesus to heal his son, resulting in the Second Sign.
- Jesus healed a cripple man at the Pool of Bethesda. This Third Sign was not only a healing but also revealed that Jesus only did what the Father told him to do, when he told him to do it.
- Sign Four occurred when Jesus, moved by compassion for the crowds that began to follow him, fed 5000 men, plus women and children, with only five small loaves of bread and two small fish.

**John 6:14** After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." But the people got the wrong idea. They were diet driven people and they wanted Jesus to be their "Bread Messiah" and feed them every day, just as Moses fed the Israelites in the wilderness with manna.

This ignited a "Messiah Frenzy" resulting in them wanting to force Jesus to be there king!

To end this, Jesus sends his disciples back across the lake that evening to Capernaum, but upon arriving the crowd, looking for another Hebrew Happy Meal, found Jesus the next morning there too. Jesus had to explain that he was the true bread that would bring eternal life to those who believed and received.

### Sign Five on The Sea

Where and when does Sign Five occur? As the disciples travel across the sea that night.

#### John 6:16-20

- 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 three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified.  
**20** But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."

This miracle is recorded in Matthew, Mark, and John. Matthew and Mark give a few more details and Matthew included that story of Peter walking on the water with Jesus.

John keeps it simple to quickly draw a contrast between the people's misguided concept of Jesus as an earthly ruler with limited power and Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God who has supreme authority in all the universe, who isn't restrained by physical laws and walks on water if needed.

#### John 6:16-20

- 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.

**Why did the disciples go to the lake and get in the boat?** Jesus told them to.

**Mark 6:45** Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

Remember, the crowds were trying to make Jesus their King by force. But this was not God's timing and place. It was time for him and the disciples to get away and Jesus wanted to send the crowds home.

**What do you do when people try to pull you off God's path for your life?**

**You need to pray and refocus.**

**Mark 6:46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.**

Prayer is the best way to refocus, hear from God, and boldly move forward.

Not only did Jesus want to stay back to dismiss the crowd, but he also really wanted some quiet time on the mountain. Remember Sign Four, feeding the 5000, started when Jesus tried to take a retreat for a time of refreshing and some quiet time with the Father.

### **Sent Into a Dangerous Place**

I think the Holy Spirit had revealed to Jesus that a storm was coming. If so, Jesus intentionally sent his disciples into a dangerous place. It was dark and the sea of Galilee was known for sudden changes in the weather with unexpected storms.

Why would Jesus do that?

**1. So that he could show them something about himself that no one else would see.**

As Jesus demonstrated power over the natural and physical elements of this world. He showed his disciples one of those signs that the religious leaders were seeking, but it was for the eyes of the twelve only. This was a miracle that could only be performed by the God of the universe!

**2. Sometimes it's only in a dangerous and scary place that God's glory shines brightest!**

**ILL:** Inner City Missionary – *“The safest place to be is in the center of God's will.”*

**3. Jesus was not above calling His disciples to a dangerous place to teach them something or demonstrate His power.**

Mark lets us in on a little secret. **Mark 6:51-52 Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, 52 for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.**

They didn't understand about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

I bet when we read about Jesus teaching the people in John 6 that it's not about Moses and manna, physical bread, but rather it is about the Father sending him, the son, as the living bread of life, we picture the disciples standing by Jesus, agreeing, nodding their heads, and saying, “Amen brother, preach it!” *No, they didn't understand it either.*

Sometimes it takes a traumatic experience to break up the hard ground of a hardened heart and make it soft and pliable to the things of God again.

**4. Maybe Jesus wanted to see if they were growing in their faith.**

What happened the last recorded time in the gospels when Jesus made his disciples get into a boat?

On that day, the disciples learned that sometimes Jesus even calls us into dangerous places. Mark 4 records the violent storm that rose up and all the disciples feared for their lives.

Where was Jesus? Peacefully sleeping in the boat. They woke him up and he rebuked the wind and waves declaring, “Peace be still!” That day Jesus also showed his disciples his authority over the natural elements and to walk in faith rather than fear.

Maybe after that experience, they were thinking, *“Yea, if that ever happens again I will have faith the next time!” “If Jesus wants to sleep through the storm, I'm going to lay right there next to Him and sleep too!”*

But this time it was different. This time, Jesus didn't get into the boat with them!

They were alone... so they thought.

How would they respond this time?

### **John 6:18-20**

**18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.**

**19 When they had rowed three or three and a half miles,**

(Side Note: Jesus' time of public ministry would be three, to three and a half *years* with them.)

**they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified.**

(Wouldn't we be terrified too, if we saw someone walking on a rough sea and coming towards us?) According to Mark, they thought Jesus was a ghost!

**20 But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."** Again, faith over fear! Even in a dangerous place or situation, if Jesus is with us, we don't need to be afraid.

### **John 6:21a Then they were willing to take him into the boat,**

They may have launched out that evening in their own knowledge and confidence, as seasoned fishermen, but when they found themselves in trouble, they were happy to accept Jesus into the boat.

This sort of reminds me of Jesus asking the crippled man, "Do you want to be healed?" I can almost hear Jesus saying, "Would you like me to get into the boat with you?"

Just like some people say they want to be healed of whatever condition they find themselves in, their actions don't always reflect that they really want to be healed.

We say we want to go through life with Jesus in our boat, but sometimes our actions seem to be leaving him on the dock or out walking on the water.

**Are you going to let Jesus into your boat?**

**Bold Next Step: This week I will prayerfully consider if I am allowing Jesus into my boat of life, or do I try to navigate the waters on my own?**

### **What Happens When You Let Jesus into Your Boat?**

**John 6:21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.** A sub miracle to the water walking miracle, but still really cool!

Jesus gets you where he wants you to go and often times a lot faster than you could get there yourself.

### **Sign Five Accomplished Its Purpose**

**Matthew 14:33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."**

This is what we hope all the signs, miracles, and wonders will do.

Concerning the signs of Jesus, John concludes his account of the life of Jesus with these words...

**John 20:30-31 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**