



SERIES: WAYPOINTS, WEEK 5
MESSAGE TITLE: WALKING THROUGH THE STORM

SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER
DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): *John 6:16-23*

Last week, Pastor Brad talked about John chapter 6 and the feeding of the five thousand and how many stopped following Jesus after he gave a hard teaching. However, his closest followers, the apostles stuck with him. Why is that? Right in the middle of the story last week, there's another vignette from the life of Jesus. This week Pastor Alex focused on the story of Jesus walking on the water. This story gives us an idea of why Jesus' disciples continued to trust him, even when so many others turned away.

The 12 disciples are all on a boat out in the sea in the middle of the night. They traveling to a place where Jesus said to meet him. Suddenly, they are overtaken by a storm and they are hard pressed. Jesus walks out to them on the water , terrifying them further, and tells them not to be afraid. Reassured, they are willing to invite him into the boat. Suddenly, the waves are calmed, and they immediately reach their destination. Jesus demonstrates through this miracle that he is more than just a rabbi and miracle-worker. He says that he is "I am" and that he can be trusted. Like God always does, he cares for them. This gives the disciples, and us today, a reason to trust Jesus no matter what storms may come.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Have you ever been stuck in a storm? What happened?
2. What kind of weather do you most enjoy?
3. What's one encouraging thing you've seen someone do for another person this week?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How would you describe the disciples' circumstances when they first saw Jesus on the water?

CONTINUED:

2. What does the text(s) suggest that the disciples' original reaction to Jesus was? What makes you think that?
3. What did Jesus say to the disciples? What were the results of his words?
4. What happens when Jesus gets into the boat with his disciples? What do you think their reaction was to this?
5. How does reading the different accounts of this event in Matthew, Mark, and John help give you a better understanding of the passage? What helpful things do you learn from the other accounts?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Pastor Alex defined storms in our lives as anything that causes us to lose our equilibrium. What are some storms that people face in their lives? What are the storms that are happening in our world right now?
2. What are the natural responses that people have to storms in life? How do they react? How are you seeing people react to storms today?
3. While the disciples are in the middle of the storm, Jesus is moving towards them, even before they can see him. How have you seen Jesus move towards others in the midst of a life storm they're facing? What did that look like?
4. How have you seen people experience peace and trusting Jesus in the midst of a life storm?
5. The disciples invited Jesus into their boat, into their circumstances. What might it look like for someone to invite Jesus into their circumstances today? How would that impact someone's life?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Are you currently going through a life storm? How is that affecting your life?
2. How have you responded to life's storms in the past? How are you currently responding to the "storm" going on around us?
3. How have you experienced God moving toward you in your life, either in the past or presently?
4. Have you ever experienced peace within a major life storm? What was that light? How did you find that peace?
5. What would your life look like if you invited Jesus into your life circumstances? What would change in your life?

cont.

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LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. If you are currently going through a storm in your life, how can your group pray for you? Is there any tangible way that your group can support you?
2. What can you do this week to be more aware of the peace that Jesus brings, whether we're in a storm or calm?
3. How might you invite Jesus into your life circumstances this week? How can your group pray for or encourage you as you do this?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.

WAYPOINTS: JESUS PICKS A FIGHT

John's reason for miracles - that would see Jesus clearly, believe in Him, and by believing in Him have life.

Will see 3 things in each sign/miracle
 ① Who Jesus is NOT ② Who Jesus is ③ What the miracle has to do with us.

John 5 The 3rd miracle → this one shows who Jesus wants us to be

Jesus went to Jerusalem for a Jewish festival makes sense as a Jew & a rabbi.

3rd miracle was private 2nd miracle was a bit more public } both in Cana 66 miles from Jerusalem

This miracle happens in a large public festival.

Jesus is leading us somewhere with how the miracles are growing/ramping up in public view.

DO YOU WANT TO BE HEALED?

Jesus is drawing us in and bringing us up close. → He is bringing us to a higher, closer place with him.

The neighborhood Jesus went to was considered an "expendable" neighborhood because it was on the outskirts... it would be the first to be attacked.

There is the pool of Bethesda here. The people who were around this pool were considered unclean. A man was there for 38 years & couldn't walk.

There was a legend that if the water stirred it was an angel and you could be healed.

Jesus asks this man if he wants to be well. The man says "I cannot get into the pool, I have no one to help me get into the pool."

■ JESUS SAYS "GET UP! PICK UP YOUR MAT AND WALK." ■ AMAZING.

But Jewish leaders stop the man because it was the Sabbath and it was illegal to carry your mat on the Sabbath.

the man says that the man who healed me I want well sign to pick up my mat and walk. ↓

Jesus knew what he was doing... It was intentional!

Later Jesus found the man and told him to stop sinning. → then man goes & tells the Jewish leaders who healed him.

So since Jesus was healing on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him.

Jesus wants hearts aligned with GOD not behavior that is aligned with expectations.

There is a way that leads to real life & it is found in Jesus!

The Maccabees rose up & were corrupt & going against God. Some Jews protested & became the Pharisees - started good but they went "law" crazy. They wanted to see God's presence fall over again but they made it legalistic, keeps to jump through. → like you can't pick up mat on the Sabbath even if you've just been healed!

Jesus is truly concerned about the heart! Not about "lip" service. It's about the INSIDE.