

# “The Gospel of John: The Fifth Sign(s)”

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## Scripture

### John 6:16-29

“16Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, and after getting into a boat, **they started to cross the sea to Capernaum**. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.

19Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw **Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat**; and they were frightened. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." So, they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and **immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going**.

22The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that **Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone**. There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So, when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "**Rabbi, when did You get here?**"

26Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." Therefore, they said to Him, "**What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?**" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that **you believe in Him whom He has sent.**"

## The Purpose for John's Gospel

### John 20:30-31

“Therefore, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Last week, we saw that Jesus up in Galilee interacting with the Galileans and feeding the 5,000

This week, Sign #5 -> Jesus Walking on Water (and immediately moving the boat to shore)

- Water Into Wine -> Change physical properties of objects
- Healing the Nobleman's Son -> Heal remotely from a great distance
- Healing the Paralytic of 38 years -> Heal with words alone and whenever He wants (Sabbath)
- The Feeding of the Five Thousand -> Can create matter out of nothing (ex-nihilo)



We left off last week with John 6:15, the people wanted to make Jesus King on the spot, so **He withdrew alone up the mountain.**

The map will be important for us to understand what is happening in today's verses. There are two towns around the Sea called Bethsaida.

Bethsaida means "House of the Fish", a common name around a lake, as you can imagine.

The Lord fed the Five Thousand **near Bethsaida-Julius**, on the Northeast corner of the Sea of Galilee.

You can see other cities along the West side of the Sea of Galilee like Magdala (home of Mary Magdalene) and Tiberias, which you might find in your version of the Bible.

There are several mountains in the area: **Mount Hermon** to the north of Bethsaida-Julius, **Mount Tabor** to the southwest of Tiberias, and **Mount Eremos** to the northwest of Capernaum, now called the Mount of the Beatitudes where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount.

## Jesus Sends the Disciples Across the Sea

### John 6:16-18

"Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, and after getting into a boat, **they started to cross the sea to Capernaum.** It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing."

After the feeding of the five thousand, the disciples are on the move across the Sea of Galilee

It is about a seven-mile journey over the Sea at this crossing point

Looking at the map, **I placed a green line** of what we believe the course of the disciples' boat

**Strong winds would blow** from the surrounding mountains down to the Sea, especially in the evening

Mark's Gospel is a little more descriptive of the location and motivation for the disciples' trip:

### Mark 6:45-46

"Immediately Jesus **made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side to Bethsaida,** while He Himself was sending the crowd away. After bidding them farewell, He left for the mountain to pray."

Mark tells us that it was Jesus who told the disciples to go across the Sea

**Could it be that He planned another miracle knowing what would happen later that evening?**

**Did the disciples truly begin to understand who Jesus was and understand His power?**

## Walk Like the Messiah

### John 6:19

“Then, when **they had rowed about three or four miles**, they saw **Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat**; and they were frightened.”

At its farthest points, the Sea of Galilee is about 7 miles across and 13 miles in length

John records they rowed about 3-4 miles against a 7-mile journey, so they are in the middle of the Sea

The wind is powering against them -> **why would Jesus command them to row across against the wind?**

**Why would He have them row in the evening when the wind was strongest?**

Mark’s Gospel gives a little more of the detail and confirms that the boat was in the middle of the Sea:

### Mark 6:47-48

“When it was evening, **the boat was in the middle of the sea**, and He was alone on the land. Seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about **the fourth watch of the night** He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them.”

In the middle of the Sea at the fourth watch of the night -> 3AM-6AM

Mark records that Jesus’s **intent was to pass by them** as they were rowing across the Sea

Jesus was not planning to get into the boat with the disciples, but was going to walk on water beside them

**Why would He do that?**

Just like the episode with feeding the five thousand, **He was testing the disciples’ belief in Him**

Mark explains where the disciples were in their individual faith:

### Mark 6:51-52

“Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, **for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.**”

Mark says that the disciples were astonished

“they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened”

The feeding of the five thousand **did not seem to make a dent in the disciples’ belief**

Instead, “their hearts were hardened” -> the phrase suggests rebellion not mere ignorance

**They could not believe what they saw with their own eyes!**

Naturally, when they saw Jesus walking on the water toward them, they were frightened:

### John 6:20

“But He said to them, “It is I; **do not be afraid.**”

Something happens before Jesus enters the boat, though

Mark does not record it, nor does John, but Matthew does:

## Peter Walks on Water

### Matthew 14:28-33

“Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, **command me to come to You on the water.**” And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, **“You of little faith, why did you doubt?”** When they got into the boat, the wind stopped and **those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God's Son!”**

This is where Peter attempts to walk on water to the Lord

He eventually senses the natural world (the wind) rather than the supernatural (the Lord) and loses focus

The group worships Jesus and stated that **He was certainly “God’s Son”**

**Jesus could suspend the natural law of gravity** and cause Peter to walk on water, also!

## The Arrival

### John 6:21

“So, they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and **immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.**”

Jesus calms their fears and enters the boat -> they “were willing to receive Him” -> they believed it was Him!

The Sermon Notes has **“The Fifth Sign(s)”** for a reason

There is another miracle shown here that many people miss

John records that “immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going”

**Where was the boat in the Sea when Jesus was walking on water?**

The disciples were half-way across the Sea, 3-4 miles out of a 7-mile journey

I read earlier that Mark wrote that they were in the “middle of the Sea”

When Jesus gets into the boat, however, the boat is immediately at land -> **He moved the entire boat to shore**

**Jesus can transport large objects with people!**

## The Following

### John 6:22-25

“The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that **Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone.** There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So, when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, **‘Rabbi, when did You get here?’**”

The people who were fed are looking for Jesus the next day

Jesus was gone but they knew that He had not gone with the disciples

Remember, Mark said that He told the group to disburse, and He ordered the disciples into the boat

The people heard that message and saw the disciples leave alone

Other boats had come across the Sea from Tiberias (on the southwest shore of the Sea)

Going back to the map, you can see **that was quite a distance across the Sea**

Why?

They had heard about Jesus being there and they were looking for Him, too

People are tracking Jesus -> they get into boats from Bethsaida and head West to the other side of the Sea

“Rabbi, when did You get here?”

They people call Jesus, “Rabbi” -> He is the true teacher of Israel -> compared to Nicodemus

There is now a large crowd that has found Him, so He begins to teach:

**The Teaching -> Righteous Motivation**

**John 6:26-29**

“Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, **not because you saw signs**, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”

“Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him **the Father, God, has set His seal**.”

Therefore, they said to Him, “**What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?**”

Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, **that you believe in Him** whom He has sent.”

With a crowd around Him who have followed Him for various reasons prior, we see a change

“you seek Me, **not because you saw signs**, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled”

Previously, they had followed Him because of the signs -> He was doing the magic show!

Now, the group’s reasoning is even more basic -> following because He was feeding them...

They should have followed Him because He was the chosen Messiah

Do you follow Jesus for the right reasons?

“Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life”

Jesus rebukes the crowd for looking only for material food

Instead, they should look for the eternal food given by the Son

The Father “has set His seal” on the Son

When did the Father do that?

Publicly: At Jesus's baptism, "This is My Beloved Son" with whom I am well pleased

Privately: At Jesus's transfiguration, "This is My Beloved Son"

"What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"

Jesus used the word "work" or "labor", so the people think they have to work for eternal benefits

Unfortunately, there are many in our modern society that believe the same way

Jesus has to correct them by defining the work to have a relationship with God

It's very simple:

"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent"

He told the Jews the same thing in Jerusalem, His opening statement before teaching on the Coming Judgment

**John 5:24**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and **believes Him who sent Me**, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

It only requires the true belief that Jesus is Savior and Lord:

**Romans 10:9-13**

"**If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved**; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

What does true belief in Jesus look like?

Confessing that Jesus is Lord of your life!

He is not just the Savior but both Savior and Lord.

Paul is writing specifically to the Jews in this passage, quoting Isaiah and Joel from the Old Testament

Those passages, however, refer to all nations and people groups

If you truly believe in Jesus and if He is Lord of your life, **you have eternal life NOW**.

Your relationship with Jesus might only be wanting Him to save you from destruction

You might only want fire insurance -> that is a professional relationship characteristic

If your relationship with Jesus is professional, on the other hand, you are at risk of the coming judgment

**Prayer of Salvation**

**Benediction**