

Learn From Me - Feed 5k

Today we are continuing the series “Learn From Me”, looking at some of the things that Jesus DID, the examples that He set and that were recorded in the Word, and what we can learn from them.

Today we are in the book of John, a wonderful book....and if you read what John wrote, it's important to note why he wrote it....

John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John has a little different flavor than Matthew, Mark, and Luke....his direction is always for you to believe that Jesus is the Christ, Anointed One, Savior and that if you believe in Him that you may have life in His name....that you would be saved, changed, transformed!

In John 5, Jesus heals this man on the Sabbath, and tells the Jews that He is the Son of God. They do not like either one of these things and they want to kill Jesus....

John 6:1-3 (NKJV)

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. 3 And **Jesus went up** on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

Have you ever noticed that when the Jews wanted to kill Jesus, He would usually head out of town? He went OVER the sea.....at it is most narrow point it's probably about 4 miles to cross by boat. He got out of town....

Was He scared? Was this cowardly? Not at all....He knew that His time had not come. Jesus preached the truth, He did the Father's will regardless of what others might think, but when it got dangerous....He moved on! That's not cowardly, that's WISDOM!

Where did Jesus go? **Jesus went up**, see Jesus is the moral standard, He always “takes the high road”, He doesn't run away, He goes up!

We should constantly be seeking to “go up” to seek Jesus who is higher than any other. We should constantly seek to “go up” in character, to become more like Him and less like this world!

Now as He goes across the sea on a boat, a straight shot....the people are following Him.
WHY?

Because they saw the signs He performed....they saw miracles....

Church, if you think the gifts of the Spirit are not for today, that God doesn't want to work in signs, wonders, and miracles, then you don't know God very well.....

Did these people become "followers" of Jesus because of the signs.....NO....but they followed Jesus! See they didn't necessarily become Christians but they continued to watch, they hungered for more.

See there is a difference between becoming a follower of Jesus and just following Jesus.

Today in college basketball, there is this amazing player that's as unique as any player we've ever seen. Zion Williamson. You don't forget a name like Zion....Zion plays for Duke...I can't stand Duke, I don't root for Duke, never have. I'm not a fan. I am not a follower of Duke basketball.

However, I am following Duke this year....WHY.....I am curious....I want to see this guy play....I want to know more about this player that has been so seriously hyped. Is it just the media, is it just the Dukies, or is it true??? Is Zion Williamson really that good, that exciting, that sensational?

I'm not a Duke follower, but I'm following.....

These people were not Jesus followers, but they are following! It was because of the signs.....the signs draw the unbeliever a little closer, they begin to track what's going on.....they aren't there just for the cool factor....they are drawing people to Jesus!

Where are you today? A follower or following?

Jesus goes across the sea, takes the disciples up on the mountain....

John 6:4-5 (NKJV)

Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Then **Jesus lifted up** His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"

Do you know how big a multitude is? I read that it's more than a few, less than the entire population of the earth.....enlightening huh? A multitude is a HUGE crowd.....this was a GREAT multitude...

If you read the other accounts of this story, it's in all 4 gospels. A couple of the others say that some were already there when Jesus got out of the boat. Now in the boat if it was 4 miles across, to go around the sea, you are talking probably 6-7 miles.

Some were already there.....here is what God showed me.....

If you have a crowd and they have to travel 6-7 miles on foot....how many will get there quickly? Before a boat could be rowed 4 miles? Probably a few....those who are runners, those who are already in decent shape....

Most are gonna be there later, they may even be excited.....they just can't run, they are like me, what they typically run is "out of breath". Most will come later, it will take them some time, but they will come if there is something worth coming for....

How many of you first heard of Jesus or first experienced His power, came sprinting? Probably a few....

How many it took you some time? Maybe you are even still working your way over to Him but you are following? It's usually the majority.

Don't lose hope for those who have yet to come. What did Jesus do? **He lifted up** His eyes.

Psalm 121:1-2 (NIV)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Look up they are coming.....let the Holy Spirit do His work. Let Him convict of sin, righteousness, and the judgement to come. In the meantime, continue to show people Jesus and trust Him!

Jesus asked Philip "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"

John 6:6-7 (NKJV)

But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

So when we read accounts like this one....we can read it in the other gospels and fill in some gaps but ultimately there are still time gaps right? We don't get an exact play by play of every moment. We read it very quickly but there can be hours between verses!

Let's take a moment to understand the severity of this issue.....a GREAT multitude of people. They have likely haven't eaten in a while. They saw the signs, they ran around the sea, they've been listening to Jesus for a while now, it's getting late.

Jesus tests Philip by asking where do we get bread for all of these people. It was a test because Jesus already knew the answer. He wanted to show Philip and the disciples "their faith"

You know that's how testing works right? Jesus already knows where your faith is....He tests you to show YOU where your faith is at.....it can be scary....

The response is that we don't have it Jesus! Doing the math and converting to USD, he says if we had about \$15k of bread it wouldn't feed them all!

Are you getting a picture of a great multitude now?

Jesus says "go look and see what we've got!

If you are at all like me, I would be thinking (ok probably saying) "Well.....if someone was smart enough to bring their lunch, then I guess they aren't gonna be hungry, everyone else should have thought of that before they left!"

And if we are being honest....if I brought lunch and it's getting late. All I've got at this point is a little cooler with some empty sandwich bags in it! I probably don't even have any Dorito cheese on my fingers anymore! I may have even asked Kristi if she had a granola bar or something....

But Jesus says go an look. 5k men, plus women and children.....if we said 15k.....how long would it take to go and see what everyone had? This was not just an announcement...."hey if you have food, bring it up".....they had to go and check! It took some time!

John 6:8-9 (NKJV)

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

This is often referred to as the boys lunch.....I don't believe that's accurate.....again.....a boy would have eaten his lunch by now. It's also quite a bit for a kid to eat 5 loaves and 2 fish?

This boy was likely passing by from one place to the next. Maybe he went to the market to pick this stuff up for supper and saw the masses and went to check it out....

But Jesus takes the 5 loaves and 2 fish....

John 6:10 (NKJV)

Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was **much grass** in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

There was much grass in the place.....have you ever noticed that? It's important....

Jesus led the people to this place. You know Psalm 23?

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures"

Later in John 10, Jesus says "I am the Good Shepherd"

You know what a Good Shepherd would do? Lead his sheep to greener, fuller pastures, a place where the sheep would be content and well fed. Jesus leads His sheep to a place where there is abundant grass and no shortage....where there is more than enough!

John 6:11 (NKJV)

And **Jesus took** the loaves, and when **He had given thanks He distributed** them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.

Jesus took - how much did He take? All that the boy had offered to Him.

Was it a lot? Nope.....but Jesus.....Isn't He amazing? You may not feel like you have a lot to offer. But I can promise you this....if you give Him what you have....He will use it to to great things. More than you ever could do with what you have on your own.

Do you know that Jesus doesn't "need" anything to perform a miracle? He didn't "need" the 5 loaves and 2 fish. He doesn't "need" you to do or say anything but He wants to know what you are willing to give up because you can't serve both self and God.

You may not have much, but He'll take what you offer....

Jesus gave thanks - this is my favorite part. Jesus gave thanks. This wasn't only a prayer for the food. The Greek word here for thanks is eucharisteo (you-kah-re-ste-o) whose root word is GRACE.

You offer what you have and Jesus gives GRACE. Unmerited favor. It's not that you deserve it, or that you earned it.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Jesus distributed - Jesus gave to the disciples, they gave to those seated and everyone got as much as they wanted.

This is how grace works.....Jesus made it available to ALL. Even those who may have brought their own lunch. Even those who didn't want it. Even those who didn't like it. Even those who wanted something different. He made it available to ALL.

Other gospels record that they were seated in groups of 50. So again, going with 15k people there would have been 30 groups. It's more than likely that the disciples did not hand a chunk to each individual person. Because everyone got as much as they wanted....

Jesus to the disciples - the disciples to the people - the people to the people. Grace upon grace upon grace. If you receive grace, you give grace.....

Matthew 10:8 (NKJV)

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Jesus is the source of all miracles.....but do you see that everyone had a hand in it?

This is the miracle that keep miracling - Jesus started it, as each person broke some off, it kept multiplying. Is this a foreshadowing of Jesus working miracles through our hands by the power of the Holy Spirit???

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.....the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you.....

The collected all the leftover bread and it filled up 12 baskets....

John 6:14 (NKJV)

Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Jesus IS the Son of God. He IS the Savior. He IS the Healer. He IS the Deliverer.

- Follower or following?
- Sprint or take some time?
- Give your little and watch Him to much
- Share what you are given....