

Bible Studies on the “signs” in John’s Gospel

Study 6: Crossing Over

Discuss:

- Have you ever been in a situation when you thought you were in real danger of drowning? Are you able to share about it? What happened so that you survived? As a related question, do you like boating? How do you feel when the waves get choppy and the wind rough?
- Why do you think the ancients looked forward to the sea being done away with? (Revelation 21:1; see also Isaiah 17:12; 27:1; 57:20; Jeremiah 51:42; Zechariah 10:11; Revelation 13:1)

READ John 6:15-21

1. Why did Jesus withdraw to a mountain by himself (v. 15; see also Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46)? What can we learn from Jesus withdrawing at this time?
2. Does the sight of Jesus quell the fears of the disciples? Why or why not? (v. 20; see also Mark 6:49; Matthew 14:26)
3. Jesus literally says to his disciples in verse 20, “I am. Don’t be afraid.”
 - a. Given the way Jesus uses this phrase “I am” elsewhere in the Gospel of John, what might Jesus be communicating beyond merely identifying himself? (see also John 6:35, 48; 8:12, 58-9; 9:5; 10:7, 11, 36; 11:25; 14:6; 15:5; Exodus 3:14; Job 9:8)
 - b. There is a final element to the sign of Jesus walking on water which is easy to miss, and which only John records for us (verse 21 – note the word “immediately”). What might this tell us about Jesus, who he is and what he can do? (cf. Ps 107:23-31)
4. How can we apply the events of this sign to the situations in which we find ourselves?
 - a. Jesus comforts the disciples by being there with them. What assurance do we get from the following verses? Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Romans 8:38-39
 - b. Jesus gets the disciples safely to their destination. What assurance do we get from the following verses? Psalm 23:4; Psalm 121:7-8; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 43:1-2; John 14:3; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 5:10