John 6:15
15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone. (KJV)

Now understand – two things. Number one. He did not need those people to make Him a king. He is the King. If they thought they were going to make Him king, they misunderstood. They needed to acknowledge Him as their king, not make Him their king. Number two, He did not come to set up a kingdom. This idea that Jesus came to set up His kingdom but then the Jews rejected Him He decided, He would start a church – that doctrine was borne out of this verse.

Verse 16. And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea, And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. Which is odd, for a few reasons, where are the disciples going? Jesus is praying and they are entering into a ship at night, fisherman find comfort in sleeping in a boat on the water, maybe that was there intent, but why would they leave to sleep after they had just been with Jesus and fed 5000? The disciples were no different than the average Christian today, if we are not being wowed, having some sensation by God, if we are not learning some new thing from God every moment, then we are bored and ready to sleep. So Jesus sent them a sensation to wake them up.

And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. Wonder how often God sends a great wind our way, hoping to wake us up.

Verse 19. So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. Interesting that Jesus let them have to endure the raging sea and the great wind for awhile then He shows up to help. Trials and tribulation will come in a Christians life and Jesus may not show up immediately, because he wants us to gain something by the trial of the tribulation, look at 1 Peter 4:12-13, Rest assured that Jesus is always near bye, trust in the Lord and be not afraid.

They saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing nigh unto the ship and they were afraid. Why were they afraid, lack of trust maybe, He could feed the 5000 but could He walk on water too? – that is why the Holy Spirit records, they could not believe it was Jesus they were seeing. Verse 20. But he saith unto them, It is I; (See, He has to identify Himself.) be not afraid. Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went. Now here is a double miracle. The walking on the water is a miracle. But how about this instantaneous passage through time – this is not the case where He calms the storm. There is no reference here to the storm from ending. The only reference here is as soon as they Jesus on board that boat, that boat was at the other side of the shore. Now there’s a lesson here if you compare it with Mark 4.
Mark 4 – in this case, Jesus is already on board when the ship takes passage. Mark 4:35, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And you know the story – they were afraid and Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the waves and chapter 5, verse 1, And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. So we have a case there where the Lord is already on board; there is this passage through the storm and the storm is calm and eventually they make it to the other side. When you compare these two stories it just shows the different stages at which people get saved. Think about it.

Some people that get saved early on in the journey and they sail with Jesus through all of these storms and all through the calm and eventually reach the other side of the shore. Then there are those that get saved in the nursing home or on a death bed; No sooner does he take Jesus aboard the ship, he is at the other shore.

Verse 22. The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone; (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:) When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus. The multitude is puzzled here. They see the disciples get in a boat and leave. (You just never know who is watching) They did not see Jesus get in the boat with them, There was no apparent reason to go to the other side; we came here see Jesus where is He? How in the world did He get from here to the other side without a boat? That is just it, when you are in the world you are always one step behind Jesus, unless you are in Jesus, then you are out completely.

Verse 25. And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither? Those that are not saved (in Jesus) cannot understand spiritual things 1 Corinthians 2:14 How did you get across the water? These people asked an honest question. How did you get over here? They do not get the answer Jesus is going to give them, because they do not want the light.

Verse 26. Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. This book of John is consistent. It is perfect. They ask a simple question. They do not get the answer. Why? They did not want light. They wanted food. Jesus said, you sought me but it was not me you were looking for. You are looking for the miracle worker to be you king. You want to make me king so you could have free blessing without working for them. You did not want to make me king because I was the righteous Son of God, the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Verse 27. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. He makes them an offer. You can have everlasting life. But you have to want everlasting life as much as you want food for your stomach. Labour not for the meat which perisheth... He is not saying do not work for a living. What He is saying; is you just put forth the energy and effort required to row a boat across the sea hoping I would give you
another free meal. If you worked that hard at finding eternal life, I would give you eternal life. If you wanted salvation as bad as you wanted that barley and fish, I would give it freely to you.

Verse 28. These two verses in the New Testament you should memorize when you are witnessing, there is a way according the New Testament that you can be saved by works, if you want to. Hear me out before you call me a heretic.

New Testament salvation by works – John 6:28-29. Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. You want to be saved by works, this is the work that God accepts. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

Verse 30. They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Jesus says I want you to believe on me. And they say, well show us some reason why we should. Now, First Corinthians 1:22, the Jews require a sign. They are not going to believe Him unless He shows them a sign, granted they just saw him feed five thousands with 5 loaves and two fishes and He just somehow miraculously came across the sea without a boat And they continue. Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Their speech betrays them.

Think about something. Manna was the name that the Israelites gave to the bread that God sent down from heaven, in their bitterness and in their resentment toward God for sending for what they called in Numbers 21, light bread. God called it bread. They called it manna. They never called it by this name except when they despised it. The word manna means “what is this.” What is this? They knew what it was – they ate it everyday. But when their hearts became bitter toward God and they were tired of it, they called it, “what is this.” They called it manna.

Here are these people speaking to Jesus and they said, our fathers did eat manna; well then who are their fathers? The despisers. Who are their fathers? The people that did not like what God had sent them from heaven. This is going to kick off the whole debate and conversation that's about to follow. Christian, how many miracles will God have to do in your life before you will fully trust Him to take care of you? Lost man, how many times will God have to save you from near death experiences before you will fully trust in Him?

But in Numbers 11:4, And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely... Verse 6. But our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes. When they despised that bread that came down from heaven, they called it manna. When God was recounting their evil ways in the wilderness in Psalm 78:24, He called it manna. When God is recalling His mercies in the wilderness in Psalm 105:40, it is called bread. So it is bread if your heart is right with God; it is manna if your heart is not right with God; and these people say, our fathers did eat manna in the desert. In their dispute statement to Jesus, they are contradicting what the scripture recording says.

Verse 32-33. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

Manna and the true bread comes from heaven. Write these references down along side verse 31. Manna and true bread come from heaven. Verses 31, 32, 33, 50, 51 and
58. Six times we are told true bread comes down from heaven. Christ claims to be sent from heaven by the Father in verses 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44 and 57. Everlasting life is promised in verses 40, 47, 50, 51, 54 and 58. So what do we have in this passage? Jesus Christ is the true bread that came down from heaven to give everlasting life.

Verse 32. Notice how he changes the grammar here? He is talking about two different things. Moses gave you not that bread from heaven. That would be the manna. …but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. He did not say …but my Father gave you that bread from heaven. He is setting up a comparison here between that bread and the true bread.

Verse 33. For the bread of God is he… It is a person. Are they going to miss it? They are looking for something physical and will miss the person. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. Sound familiar? John 4:15. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water… Lord, give us this bread… We want it. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life:. I am… You know that had to get their attention ever time He spoke those words. I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. Analyzing bread will not feed you; you have to eat it. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. Seeing is not believing. You must believe to see.

notes
The Book of John
Lesson 15

Name____________________________

1. Why did Jesus hide Himself from the actions intended in verse 15?

2. What picture of the 21st Century Christian life is presented in verses 16-18?

3. Do you believe Jesus actually walked on the sea? If so, how?


5. What light does verse 26 shed on verse 23?

6. What does verse 26 reveal about human nature?

7. What does the Lord's response to such people tell us about the ministry of the church?

8. How do you reconcile verse 27 with the Lord's commands to work and earn a living?

9. From the lesson, how can you answer someone who believes that their good works are necessary for salvation?
10. Why did the people attribute the Law, to the giving of bread, etc. to Moses and not to God?

11. Describe a time in your life when Jesus came to you in the time of trouble and brought you safely through.

12. What did you learn from this lesson?

true/false
- Jesus will show himself real to you in signs and miracle as you grow closer to him.
- A Christian that is in the will of God will never have troubles
- Seeing is believing

Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV)
John 6:29; John 6:33; 1 Corinthians 2:14

any questions?