

John 6:14-21
February 22, 1987
Rome Ga.
December 8, 2013

Subject: Jesus' walk on the water.

Theme: Obedience to the Lord does not always mean smooth sailing! But, in the midst of the storm, Christ is at our side.

Proposition: Are you doing that which Christ has commanded? How do you know? The disciples knew because Jesus spoke to them and told them what to do. The fact that they were in the storm was not an indication that they were not to be engaged in their current endeavor. Nor was it an indication that God had forgotten them. (Cf. [Mark 4:38](#) they woke Him up "Master, carest thou not that we perish?

I once heard on the radio about a pastor who has been placed in jail for 30 days because he had placed his daughter in a Christian school which was not state approved. This seems like a small thing - - - if you don't happen to be that pastor or his family. Weekly in the United States there are cases of Christians who are persecuted for standing up for their faith in God. The affliction has been light so far in comparison to what we read of in other countries.

2013 – Yesterday's news –“ Texas Elementary school's alleged holiday party rules, including the ban of red and green, cause outrage. Also, can,t say Merry Christmas or bring red cake or bunch etc.

The Winter Party Rules...

- 1) *No reference to Christmas or any other religious holiday*
- 2) *No red/green or Christmas Trees*
- 3) *Nothing that will stain the carpet (red juice, dark colored icing, etc.)*

Actually, there is a State law that bans the school from having such stupid politically correct stuff, but hey, like Obama, progressives only obey the laws they like.

Just a few years ago in China, within the lifetime of some our church members, the communists took control of a Christian school for girls. They blocked all the exits but one and placed a cross on the floor in front of the door. **The girls were told that if they would step on the cross they could go free and unharmed - but whosoever stepped around the cross would be shot to death.**

The **first 7 girls** to leave stepped on the cross and were allowed to live. The eighth girl however knelt and offered up her spirit unto the Lord and stepped around the cross and was promptly shot dead. **The next 100 girls in line followed her example and followed her in**

martyrdom. Examples of this kind of commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ are repeated even today in countries throughout the world.

Why is it that Christianity is such a threat to **Communism (AND PROGRESSIVES)** and other totalitarian regimes that they will kill even a child who will not renounce the name of Jesus? Quite simply it is because **at the heart of the Christian faith is Christ and He is Lord over all.** He is the supreme Monarch. He is our King and before another we dare not give the glory that belongs to Him alone. Dictators and tyrants recognize and despise His reign for they know that He and He alone is Sovereign over the affairs of men. War has been waged against the believers in Christ since the earliest days of Christianity. **Christ Himself was crucified under a plaque that proclaimed Him as King.**

Yet He is a king like no other that ever was or ever will be.

I. HE IS A KING WHO SOUGHT NOT THE OBEISANCE OF AN UNBELIEVING WORLD.

14-15 - Joh 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Joh 6:15 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.

The time of the events of chapter 6 is identified as "**near the Passover.**" This would have been about **1 year before the crucifixion** of the Lord. Because of the nearness of the Passover, the people's minds would have been on things such as; sacrifice, blood, flesh, lambs, and unleavened bread. The Passover was to remind the people annually of their miraculous deliverance from the bondage of Egypt.

In the events we saw last week we see some parallels in the actions and **activities of Moses and of Christ.** Both men TAUGHT the people from a mountain location. Both men fed the people with BREAD. And, in the minds of these people, would it not therefore be possible, that **AS MOSES HAD LED THEM OUT OF THE BONDAGE OF EGYPT,** could not Christ now be the **ONE WHO WOULD LEAD THEM OUT OF THE BONDAGE OF ROME?** After all, Moses himself had told of the coming of such a prophet. Moses had fed and led the people, might not now this one who could feed, also lead them out of Roman bondage?

****READ 6:14****

Deuteronomy 18:5 "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken."

When the people saw the SIGN that Jesus gave them, they **misinterpreted its meaning.** They sought to seize Him in order to make Him King. This highpoint of popularity in the ministry of Jesus must have afforded our Lord with a **POWERFUL TEMPTATION TO HIS FLESH.**

THERE APPEARED TO BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THE KINGDOM WITHOUT THE CROSS.

But Jesus knew that this was not to be the case. He had not come to be hailed as king by the crowds or made king by the capricious actions of men. The Kingdom of Jesus was not and is not of this world.

Jn. 18:36 Jesus answering Pilate's inquiry into his sovereignty replied,

"My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered unto the Jews; BUT NOW IS MY KINGDOM NOT FROM HERE."

SEE 18:37, FOR HERE, (IN THE GREEK,) THERE IS CLEAR CONFIRMATION THAT JESUS WAS IN FACT A KING!

Joh 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Ps. 2:7b "Though art my Son; this day I have begotten thee. Ask and I shall give thee the nations for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."....10 "Be wise now, therefore, O ye kings; be instructed ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are they who put their trust in Him."

Dan. 7:13-14...."And there was given Him dominion, and glory and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, **AND HIS KINGDOM THAT WHICH SHALL NOT BE DESTROYED.**"

His Kingdom is from the Father - BUT - before He could reign as the Lion of Judah He would first have to be SLAIN as the "LAMB of God who taketh away the sin of the world."

Likewise, we ourselves are sometimes faced with wanting today the glories that will rightfully be ours in eternity! The world holds forth it's temptations and promises of fame and fortune and dangles them like a carrot in front of a dumb donkey and many will spend their lives seeking for things which are not ours in this age. Nothing is yours that you cannot take with you when you leave this physical life for eternity! And all that you need for that life is provided in Christ. We do not now enjoy the benefit of some of our possessions - just as Christ for a season took on Himself human flesh and with it it's accompanying limitations. He ceased to dwell in the Glory that is His from the beginning, he left the protection of His heavenly host. He subjected Himself to the discomfort and humiliation of the life of an itinerate preacher in order that He might fulfill the will of His Father. **And He encourages us to likewise endure affliction for a season.**

Those preachers today that offer promises of prosperity to every "child of God" and offer it in this age seem to forget that **when God came and dwelt among men HE SUFFERED AND**

SERVED AND REFUSED TO RECEIVE THE HONOR OF MEN, PREFERING RATHER THE HONOR OF GOD!

The most religious men of Christ's day were guilty of succumbing to this very temptation.

Joh 5:44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?

Why do you do what you do for the cause of Christ? Is it to be seen by others? YOU HAVE YOUR REWARD!

Mat 6:2 Therefore when thou doest *thine* alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, **They have their reward.**

II. HE IS A KING WHO HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT THE OBEDIENCE OF TRUE BELIEVERS.

The reason that the disciples were out in the boat was that Jesus Himself had sent them out there! Matt. and Mark say "And straightway He constrained them to get into the boat..." Now, do you think that Jesus knew that they would have difficulties? It certainly appears from **6:6** that Jesus knew that problems existed in doing the will of God but it also appears that **He knows how to solve the problem long before we even know that it exists.**

It is interesting that Jesus had to "constrain" (*compe*) the disciples to do His bidding. **They had to be compelled to do His bidding**, whether by threat or entreaty, force or persuasion. They did as told but not necessarily willingly.

(Parallel passages: **Mat 14:22** And straightway Jesus **constrained** his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. **Mark 6:45**)

A year later, Just before the events of the **crucifixion** night when Jesus was with His closest disciples, He told them that **the way in which they would be able to have the deepest fellowship with the Father would be through OBEDIENCE to His commandments.**

Jn. 14:23 "If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

SEE ALSO v. 21. **Joh 14:21** He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

I **Jn. 2:3** says that our **assurance of our knowledge** of Him is demonstrated by our obedience to His commands. >>>>"**By this we do know that we know Him, if we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.**"

Sometimes this is easier than other times. WHEN WE BECOME IMPATIENT WITH GOD AND SEEK TO PUT HIM ON OUR TIMETABLE, WE ARE LIABLE TO FIND OURSELVES BEING DISOBEDIENT TO THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD.

Saul in **1 Samuel 13:9** had gotten ahead of God. He wanted to move faster than God did in seeing certain things come to pass. As a result, he acted in disobedience to the revealed will of God and **sought to do the work of a priest instead of a king.** (Cf. 10:8) In **chapter 15 Samuel's** stern admonition after further disobedient acts of Saul should be posted on the door posts of our homes and taught diligently to our children:

1Sa 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in **obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.**

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, **he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.**

Saul tried to get ahead of God and it cost him his kingdom and perhaps his soul as well!

Segue: Because...Jesus **Christ is a king who moves at His own regal pace.**

- III. HE IS A KING WHO MOVES AT HIS OWN REGAL PACE.

"They see Jesus **WALKING**"

The average human being might not be able to walk on water but there is a next best thing. It's a cornstarch-water mixture.

The result of mixing two parts cornstarch for every one part water is a goopy substance commonly known as **oobleck**. You could have made it in a chemistry class when learning about non-Newtonian liquids.

A **non-Newtonian liquid** exhibits properties of both a liquid and at times a solid.

In their own experiment with the substance, the [hosts of the YouTube channel Hard Science](#) show how, with the right speed and pressure, you can walk, run and even pogo stick jump on a trough of the cornstarch mixture. With a more gentle, slow touch, a person would sink right in. (From the Blaze)

(Perhaps our non-miracle friends can resolve the dilemma of the water walk in this way. -THEORY – THE BARELY LOAVES CONTAINED CORNMEAL, THE DISCIPLES HAD SO MUCH LEFT OVER THAT THEY THREW IT OVERBOARD, MAKING THE WATER OOBLEK, THE **CORNSTARCH IS HOW JESUS DID IT!**)

Can you picture a true monarch racing down the corridors of His palace so that He might not be late for a meeting with his scullery maid?

No way! GOD DOES NOT NEED TO RUSH IN ORDER TO GET THINGS DONE AND HAVE THEM DONE IN HIS WAY!

We are bound by time and have equipped ourselves with watches capable of being accurate to within seconds per year. In our T.V. and movies, the cavalry always arrives just when they are needed. On the **Michael Landau show where he plays a "angel" miracles from heaven occur regularly within a 60 minute time frame.** But in reality, **God is not concerned with our timetable.** Men erroneously assume that God has His eye on a calendar and a watch and that He is trying to reach a deadline. When we allow ourselves to think this way, we are falling into one of Satan's snares.

II Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

We saw last week how,

****Noah labored** *during a period of 120 years* to complete the ark and to preach righteousness. He was ridiculed and mocked and the people of His day counted God's patience as slackness, but the promised judgment came when God ordained it to.

(Genesis 6:3 quotes God as saying 120 years before the Flood that man's days were numbered. But did it take 120 years to build the Ark? We believe that Noah, with the help of his family or hired workers, could have built the Ark in 2 or 3 years.)

****Moses was a ruler in Pharaoh's court for 40 years and a shepherd for 40 more** as God prepared Him for service. The plagues and delays in seeking Israel's release from Egypt must have seemed at times to be interminable to both Moses and the Jews. Their subsequent wanderings in the wilderness must have seemed a great waste of time to the Jew. After all, wasn't God going to GIVE them the land eventually anyway?

****Mary and Martha (John 11),** marveled at **the seemingly slow pace with which Jesus responded to their cry for help** when their brother Lazarus lay sick and dying. But Jesus came, not in the spirit of the urgency of their request, **but rather he came one step at a time walking to Bethany and this after a 2 day delay!**

"Lord, if thou hadst been here, (on my timetable and the timetables of mankind) my brother had not died." **Jn. 11:21.**

But the fact is that though He was not there when Martha thought He should have been, **He was in fact there at the correct time** according to His divine prerogative.

The disciples obeyed the Lord when they got into the boat and headed for Capernaum but they ran into turbulent weather none-the-less.

Jesus was still on the mountain and looking out He could see their plight.

We know from one of the Parallel passages

Mar 6:46 And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

Mar 6:47 And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.

Mar 6:48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, AND WOULD HAVE PASSED BY THEM.

(or, pass beside them in the sense of an OT theophany. Ex. 33:19, 22; 1 Kings 19:11; Mark 6:50b.) **Exo 33:19** And he said, I will make all **my goodness pass before thee**, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. **Exo 33:22** And it shall come to pass, while **my glory passeth by**, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

1Ki 19:11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, **the LORD passed by**, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake:

Mar 6:50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, **Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.**

NOTICE! Jesus **saw them in the evening**, the period between sunset and dark, but He waited until the fourth watch (**3-6 a.m.**) to go unto them!

They toiled for fruitless hours in their own power, and managed to go 3-4 miles out. But notice too that they did so at the command of Christ and with His watchful eye upon them. And although it is true that when He entered the boat that they were immediately at their destination it is also true that they were **perfectly in His will as they labored!** Ultimately, it is by his strength and faithfulness that we accomplish His bidding. But first He seeks us to be obedient in putting our shoulder to the task. **He desires our labor as an indication of our faith in His ability to accomplish and deliver His children.** Some Christians are guilty of the same thing we accuse some welfare recipients of. Instead of working, we stand with our hand out and wait for God to drop His blessings in them without us ever having to lift a finger.

But God does not work in that way. He works in His way. "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." Not in our ways but in His ways..

Isaiah 55:8-9 " For my thoughts are not your thoughts and neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts."

-IV. HE IS A KING WHO IS OVER EVERY CREATION AND RACE

Those things which were such a problem to the disciples became the very avenue by which Jesus came to them. The wind and the waves were a hindrance for them but mere footpaths which would allow the Savior into their boat.

Although men often stubbornly refuse to obey His commands, the elements of his creation respond with never a whimper.

On another stormy night when the Lord was asleep in the boat, a storm arose and the disciples were in fear of perishing. They awoke the sleeping Master and He arose and "REBUKED THE WIND AND SAID TO THE SEA, PEACE, BE STILL, and the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

NASB "**HUSH, BE STILL.**" As my old professor John Sproul said, it was as though He spoke to a disobedient dog.

What manner of man is this that even the wind and the seas obey Him? MARK 4:41

WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS HE?

HE IS THE GOD-MAN JESUS CHRIST. HE IS THE KING OF ALL THE EARTH AND THE HEAVENS ABOVE. MEN DID NOT APPOINT HIM TO THIS POSITION AND NOT ALL MEN RECOGNIZE HIS REGAL STANDING - - - BUT ONE DAY SOON we read **in Phil. 2:9-11**

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in the earth, and things under the earth AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD, THE FATHER.**"