



**lētheia**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
*August 28, 2022*  
*“God’s Speed”*

*SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.*

News:

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It isn’t that we should presumptuously assume that Jesus is going to solve every challenge with a \_\_\_\_\_ solution, but it is to genuinely believe that He \_\_\_\_\_ and that He \_\_\_\_\_.

**JOHN 6:16-26 ~**

When we look at a passage and speculate too much about the details, or compare it too much with other accounts, we can easily lose sight of the author’s \_\_\_\_\_ in telling the event the way the Spirit led him to tell it.

Mark 6:48 says that they were “Straining at the oars,” “Straining” is βασανίζω (bä-sä-nē-dzō), to torment, or torture.

Jesus intended to pass them by, until He saw their \_\_\_\_\_ and changed course to intercept.

When they saw Jesus, they freaked out. He wasted no time in \_\_\_\_\_ their fears.

Mark 6:50 and Matthew 14:27 both record Jesus saying, “Be brave, I AM, do not be afraid.” The “I AM” part is ἐγώ εἰμι (ě-gō ā-mē), as in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

Job 9:8 we are told that God “alone stretches out the heavens and trample down the waves of the sea.” John gave us less, which is more. He has Jesus saying, Ἐγώ εἰμι, μὴ φοβεῖσθε (ě-gō ā-mē, mā fō-bās-thě), “I AM. Fear not!” It is the same as Psalm 46:10, where Almighty God says to His people “Be still, and know that I AM God.”

John 6:35 is \_\_\_\_\_ the “I AM.” Jesus said, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”

In verse 20, translators go with how the Apostles probably would have \_\_\_\_\_ it at that moment. (Mark 6:51&52).

Shouldn't we have at least as much \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus as a one-star general has for a two-star general? (Luke 14:9-11).

They each received Him into their boat and a little more into their \_\_\_\_\_.

In verse 25 we find the group seeking Jesus befuddled. The question “Rabbi, when did You get here?” means when, and \_\_\_\_\_, did You get here.

Jesus completely \_\_\_\_\_ their question and went straight to the heart of the matter.

Allegiance to Christ that is born from sight, rather than \_\_\_\_\_, is self-serving, not God serving.

Jesus bluntly told them that the \_\_\_\_\_ they were so eager to find Him is because they filled their bellies. It is the mentality that you'll go get yours.

The people \_\_\_\_\_ to make Jesus lead them in an armed rebellion against the governing authorities. They \_\_\_\_\_ Him to stage the coup in order to make Israel great again.

You must examine why you \_\_\_\_\_ what you \_\_\_\_\_ in order to accept Jesus just as He is without tainting Him and His reputation with your opinions.

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Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



# lêtheia

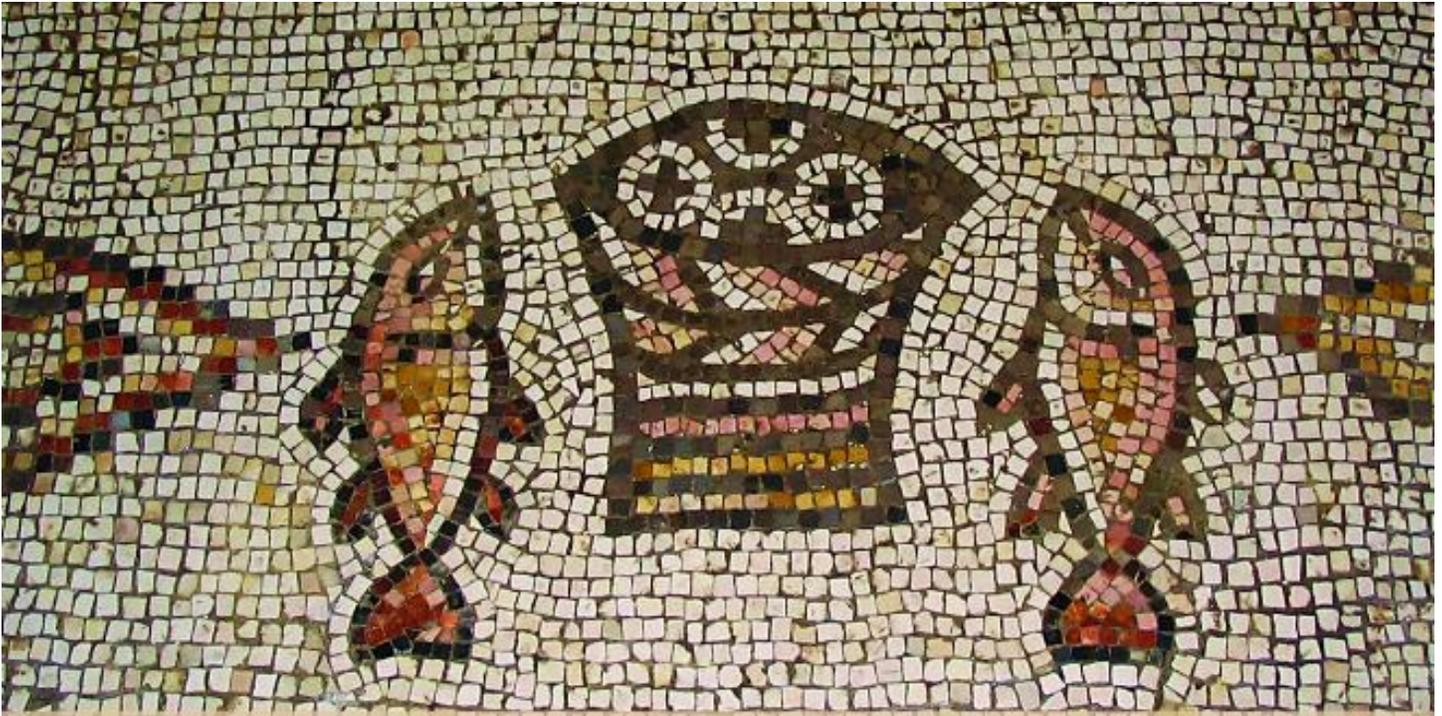
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP




lêtheia  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

the gospel of  
**JOHN**

ΕΝΑΡΧΗ Η ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΙ Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΗΝ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ  
 ΘΕΟΝ ΚΑΙ Ο ΤΗΝ ΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΟΣ ΗΝ ΕΝΑΡΧΗ ΤΙΣ  
 ΤΟΝ ΘΕΟΝ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΔΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΓΕΝΕΤΟ ΚΑΧΟΤΙΣ



**Tabgha, Sea of Galilee, mosaic circa 480 A.D.**

Last week Jesus supernaturally turned two lousy pieces of fish jerky and 5 barley muffins into enough food to fully satisfy about 10,000 men, women, and children and still have enough leftovers to fill 12 baskets.

Why 12 baskets of leftovers? So that each one of His 12 Apostles would have to carry the evidence of their failure to comprehend Who it was that they were following. Jesus had asked the 12 what they thought could be done to address the hunger of the vast crowd and they all agreed that sending them away to fend for themselves was the only viable solution.

They grossly underestimated both the hospitality and the power of Jesus. He was willing and He was able – now they would each carry the proof of that fact.

We do the same. We constantly think with our human reason in purely physical terms. We should know better. Don't feel too bad. The Apostles were active participants in this miracle and a similar one involving a slightly smaller crowd and still, they didn't get it. Matthew 16:6-12NLT, 6“Watch out!” Jesus warned them. “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 7At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn't brought any bread. 8Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, “You have so little faith! Why are you arguing with each other about having no bread? 9Don't you understand even yet? Don't you remember the 5,000 I fed with five loaves, and the baskets of leftovers you picked up? 10Or the 4,000 I fed with seven loaves, and the large baskets of leftovers you picked up? 11Why can't you understand that I'm not talking about bread? So again I say, ‘Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’ ” 12Then at last they understood that he wasn't speaking about the yeast in bread, but about the

deceptive teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. It is so difficult for us physical human beings to look at things from God's perspective because our faith is so incredibly small.



It isn't that we should presumptuously assume that Jesus is going to solve every challenge with a supernatural solution, but it is to genuinely believe that He could and that He might. He could because He is able, and He might because He is willing. The only thing preventing Him from a miraculous intervention is His perfect purpose. He will do what will result in the greatest good.

Believe that. Live that. Pray that. Lord' there is nothing too difficult for You and You care more about me and those around me that I do, so no solution is off the table – Your Will be done without a hint of doubt by me.

Jesus had felt compassion for the crowd, He healed those who were ill, He fed them natural food from a supernatural source, as the sun was setting, He ordered His Apostles to leave in their only boat, He dismissed the satiated crowd, and He went up the mountain by Himself in the gathering darkness to pray.



John 6:16-26, 16Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, 17and 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. 18The 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. 20But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21So 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. 23There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24So 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. 25When 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.

So, as noted, the Apostles loaded up and set sail for Capernaum as it was getting dark. Everyone knew that Jesus was not with them when they launched, and we have confirmed in verse 22, that there were no other boats in which He could have travelled.

Because this event is also narrated in Matthew and Mark, we get some extra details. That's both good and bad. It's good to give us a bigger picture and it's bad because that bigger picture can distract us from the focus or emphasis that the Holy Spirit through John is trying to convey.

If you've been around Christianity for a while, you are no doubt aware that Matthew reveals that Peter wanted to join Jesus on the water. Mark and John omit that detail for different reasons, but the point is that they both chose to do so for their own reasons. When we look at a passage and speculate too much about the details, or compare it too much with other accounts, we can easily lose sight of the author's purpose in telling the event the way the Spirit led him to tell it.

Knowing that, we can look at the extra details and retain the original focus as well. From the other

accounts we have the guys down at their boat at about 6pm and we have Jesus meeting them in the middle of the lake at about 4am. Well, that means it took the 12 dudes roughly 10 hours to move about 3 ½ miles. To say that “the wind was against them” as Mark does, is a gross understatement, topped only by Matthew who wrote that “The wind was contrary” (Mark 6:48, Matthew 14:24).

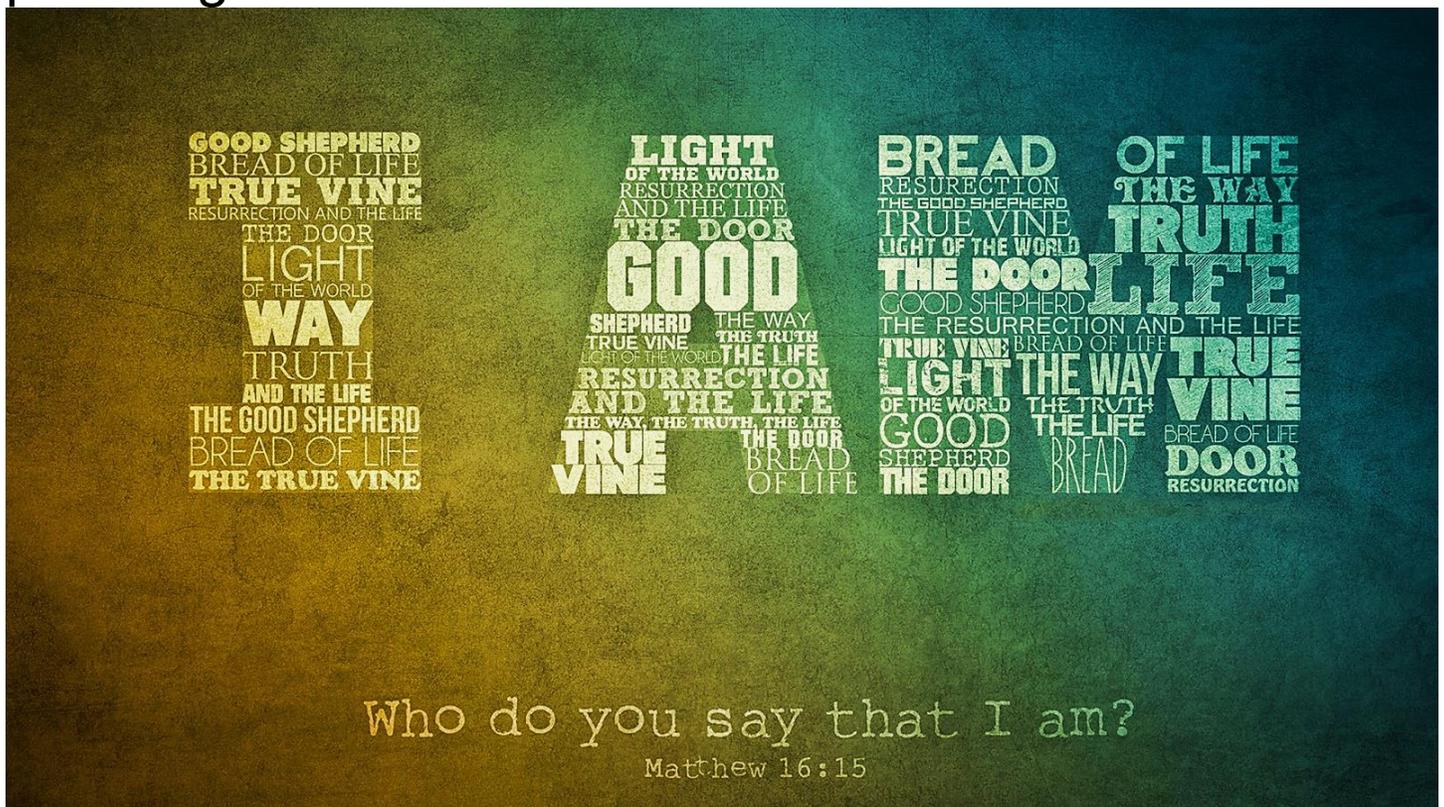
We are told that they were extremely worn-out rowing against the wind and rough seas. Mark (6:48) says that they were “Straining at the oars,” “Straining” is βασιανίζω (bä-sä-nē-dzō), which describes the practice of tormenting a person as a test of their character. It is often used to describe torturing someone for information, which is a test of their metal. βασιανίζω also expresses the extreme pain of childbirth, which is a test of the maternal instinct to love. It is an intensely painful struggle – usually with some kind of test involved. The guys were tested through extreme physical exertion over a long period of time. I guess so, rowing for all you’re worth for 10 hours to get halfway across the northern bit of the lake.

According to Mark, Jesus was zooming across the lake impervious to the wind and waves as well as defying gravity. “He intended to pass by them” until He saw their plight and changed course to intercept them (Mark 6:48).



When He did, they saw Him and freaked out. They were terrified believing that they were seeing a “spook, specter, or ghost” and needed “professionals” for their “supernatural elimination needs.” Some people suggest that Jesus was merely walking along the shore and not on the water. Pretty difficult to imagine why a dozen grown men, some of them seasoned sailors, would be “terrified” by that (Mark 6:50).

Jesus changed direction out of compassion, and He wasted no time at all, calming their fears. “Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid,” Jesus said (Mark 6:50, Matthew 14:27). It is an identical and unusual phrasing in both Matthew and Mark.



Each of them records Jesus saying, “Be brave, I AM, do not be afraid.” Even though the “I AM” part is ἐγώ εἰμι (ě-gō ā-mē), “I AM, that which I AM,” as it is when God identifies Himself in the Burning Bush, some chalk the “I AM,” part up as Jesus merely saying in effect – “Hey guys, it’s just Me.” Well, if you add to the Divine phrasing, the fact that Jesus is cruising around at will

on a wind-tossed lake without a flotation device, I think there's more to it than "it's just Me."

In Job 9:8 we are told that God "alone stretches out the heavens and trample down the waves of the sea." The phrasing is nearly the same for Jesus in our three accounts. For John's part he recorded Jesus saying to the dudes, Ἐγώ εἰμι, μὴ φοβεῖσθε (ě-gō ā-mē, mā fō-bās-thě), "I AM. Fear not!" It is the same as Psalm 46:10, where Almighty God says to His people "Be still, and know that I AM God."

If you have any sense of context at all, you cannot help but conclude that Jesus is not only acting like God by "trampling down the waves," He's declaring Himself to be God by name. "I AM." If that's the case, why do most Bible translations obscure it by rendering it similarly to the NASB, "It is I; do not be afraid"?

In most instances the ἐγώ εἰμι, "I AM," name of God, construction is so odd, it can't really mean anything other than the name of God, as we will plainly see in just a few more verses. John 6:35, Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."

The “I AM” statement there is unmistakably claiming the name of God. Here, in our verse 20 of that same chapter, it is less obvious and could very well be understood to merely mean “It is I.” That’s probably how the Apostles in the boat understood it at that time.

Why? Because they didn’t get it. They didn’t get Jesus – not yet. For them, after the Resurrection and the indwelling Holy Spirit, as for us, a Spirit-filled Christian audience, it is obvious that it is, at the very least, a hint of Who Jesus is.

Translations go with how the Apostles probably would have understood it at that moment. I’ve given you what Christians should easily recognize now. Don’t believe me? Mark 6:51&52, 51Then He (Jesus) got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, 52for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

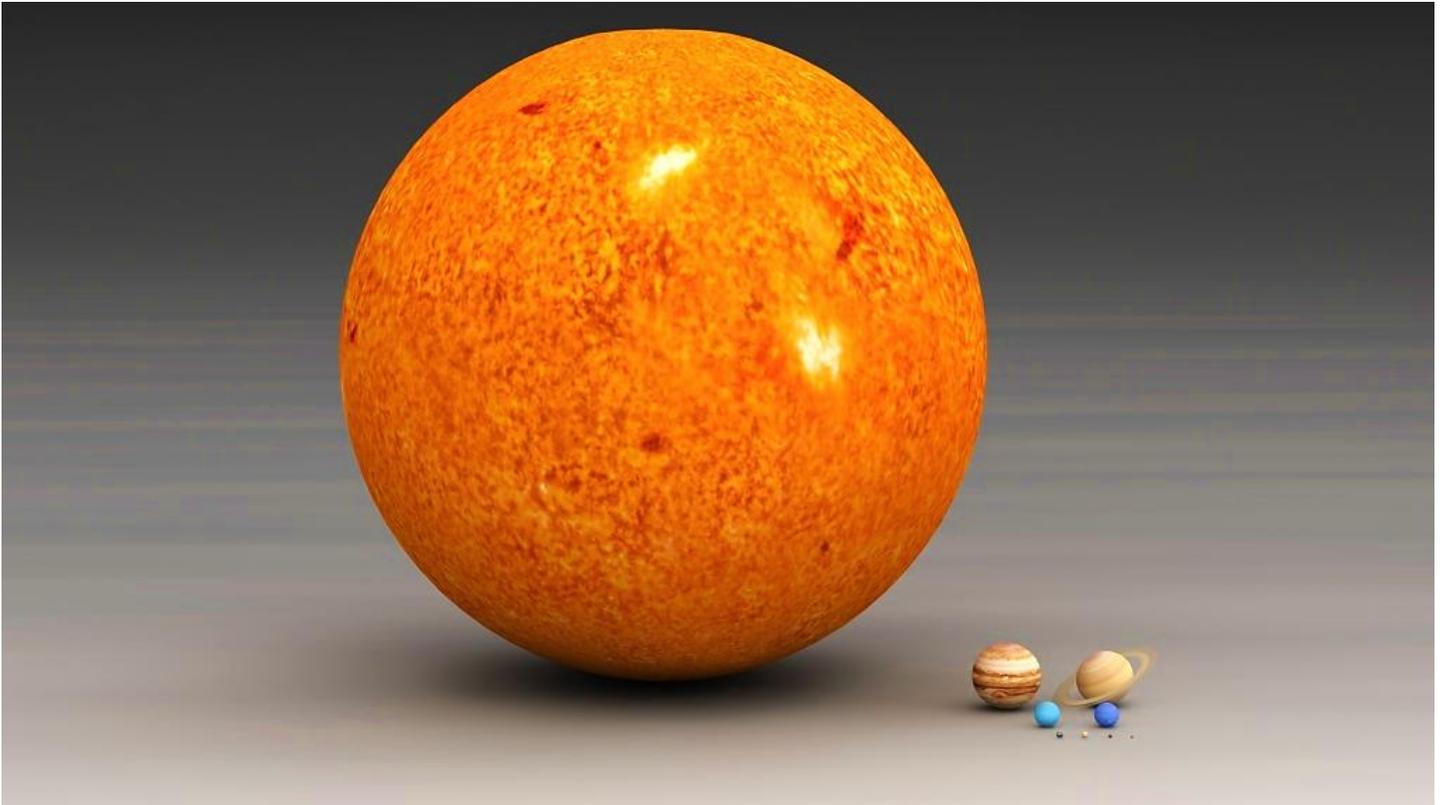
Repeatedly we see in the Gospels the reality that no one got it at the time, not even those in His closest

circle, who had already confessed that He was the Christ.

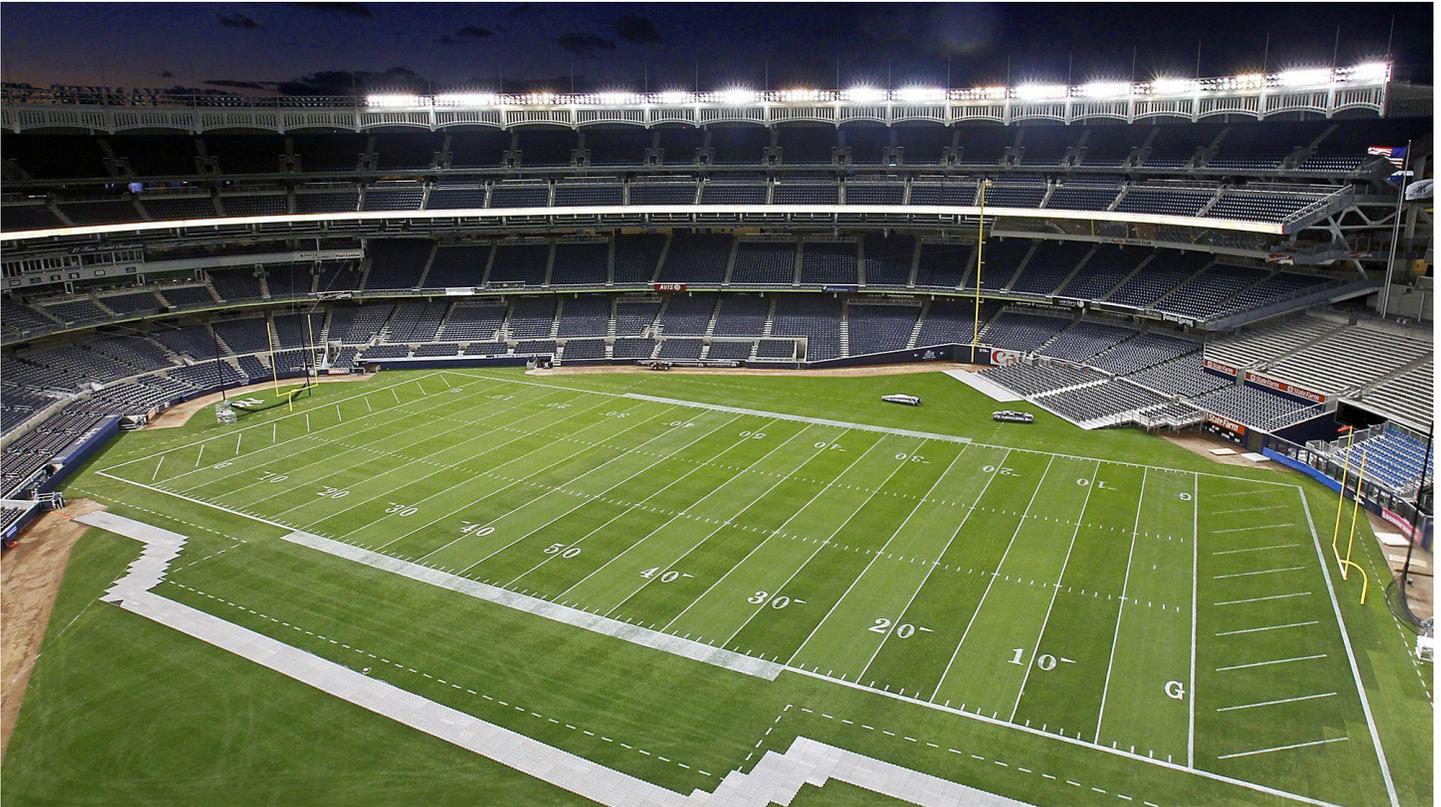
The bad news, is even now, after 2,000 years and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we still don't get Jesus. He is God! Fall on your knees! Be ruined in His Holy presence, you people of "unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5). Follow Simon Peter's example who "fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8). Stop making Jesus so small, so weak, so human, Stop treating Jesus like He's just a get out of hell free card, like He's a genie who grants your wishes, like He exists to serve you, like He agrees with your ridiculous opinions, like He's as interested in our politics, our economy, our country as we are. Don't make the same mistake the Jews made and try to force Jesus to be the King that you want Him to be – He's God! And I'm pretty sure that He will be Who He will be.



Saturn is one of the closest planets in our solar system – just past Mars and Jupiter. This is the Cassini space probe photo of Saturn and just below its rings, the Earth.



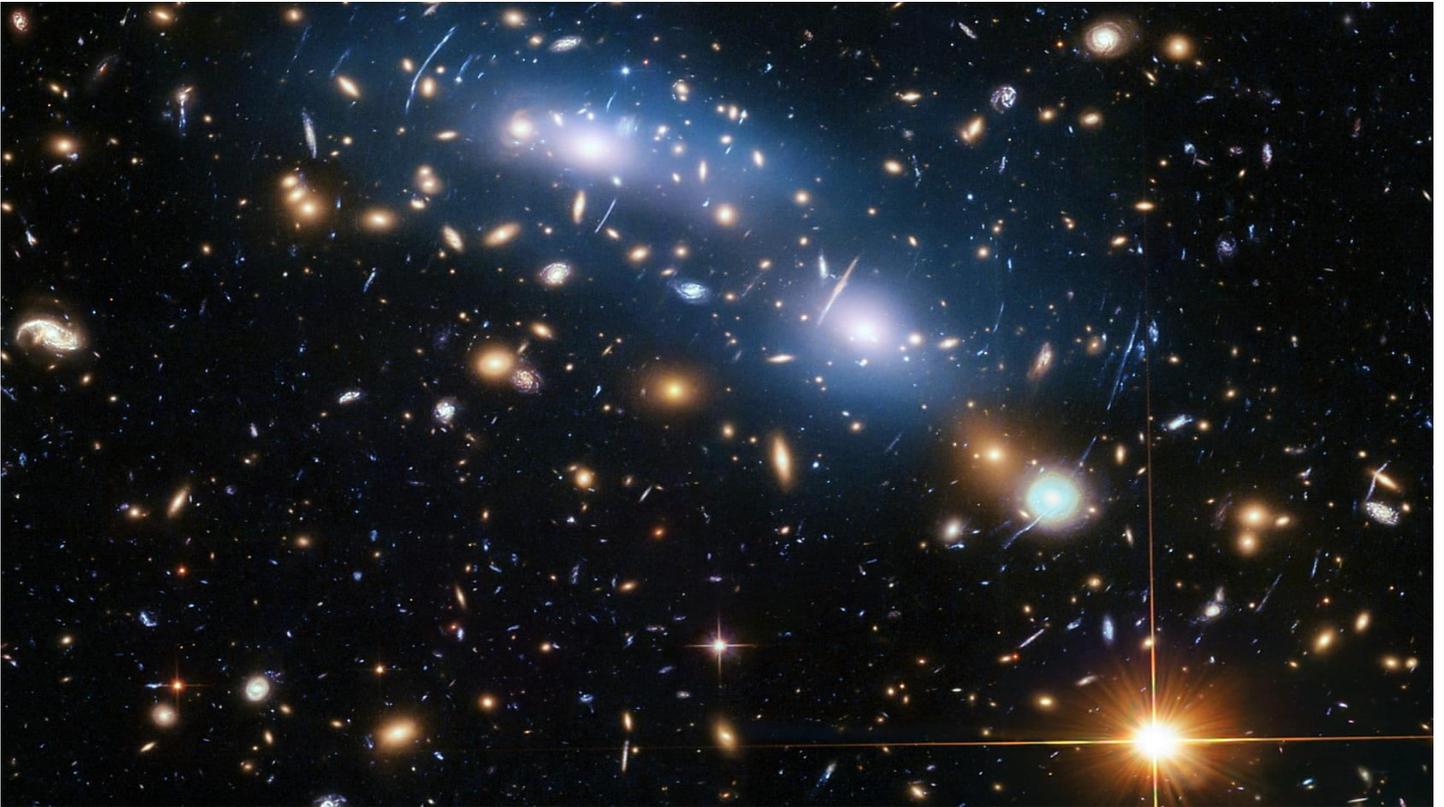
The biggest one is the Sun of course. The next two in size are Jupiter and Saturn. The medium two are Neptune and Uranus and the tiny blue one is earth in the line of four that you can barely see is earth.



If we use a football field for our scale, the sun is on one goal line and is the size of a dime. You may not remember a dime in our digital world, but it was the smallest coin we used to carry in our pocket. Earth is the size of a small grain of fine sand and sits on the 2-yard line. Saturn is a little bit bigger and sits on the 19-yard line. Only 81 more yards to go to get out of our tiny little solar system.



A solar system that sits as one of 100's of billions of solar systems within the Milky Way Galaxy.

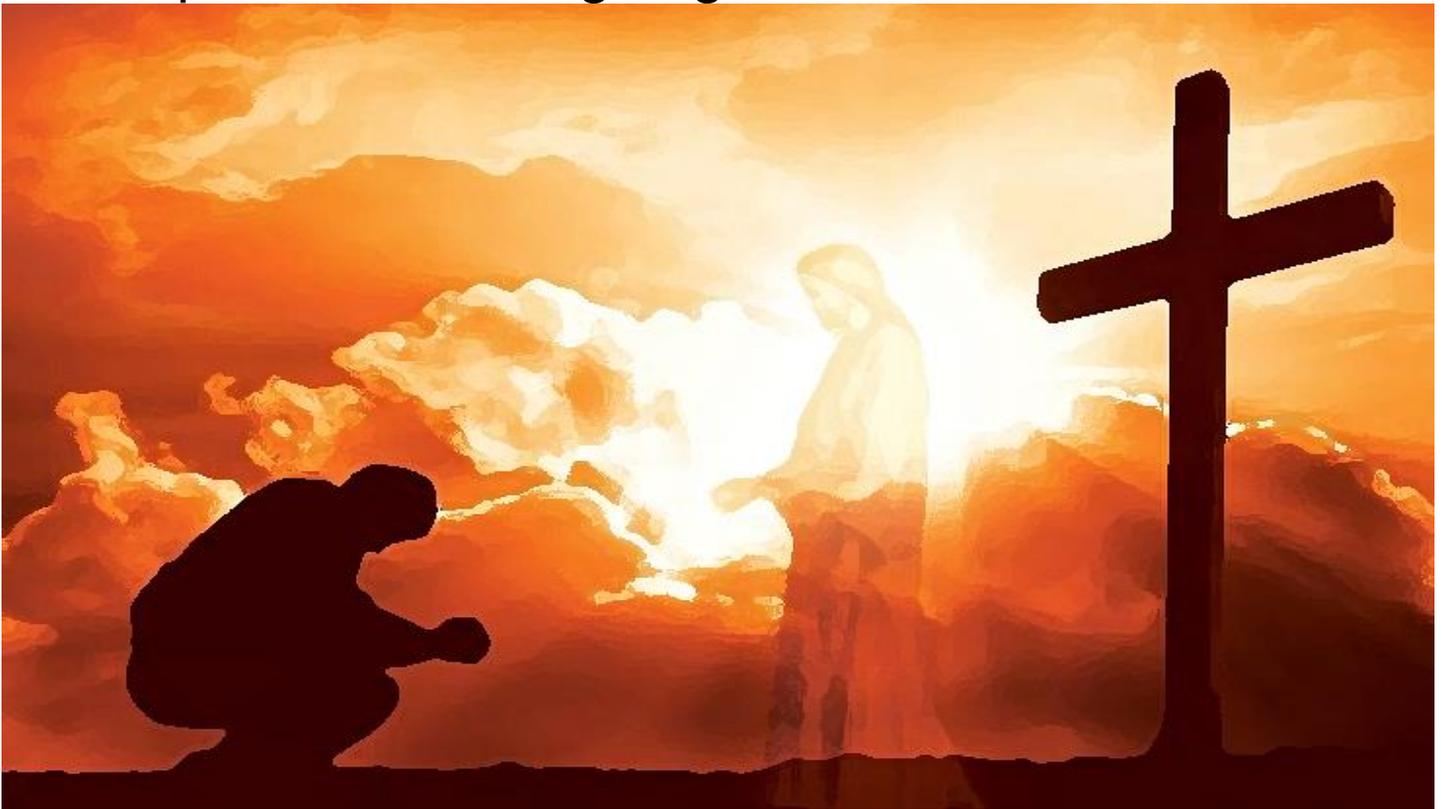


One of 100's of billions of galaxies in the known universe... We say known because we've never found the edges. There's no telling how vast it all truly is, and Jesus is the Word through Whom it all came into existence and Jesus is the one Who actively holds it all together as we sit here. Give Him praise and glory.

People say that the universe is too big. Well, if the universe is for us then that is absolutely true, but if the universe is to display God's awesome grandeur, then I'd say it's about the right size. That unimaginably big God, chose to live a life as a frail human, not to be

brought down into our human turmoil, but to lift us up out of it.

As we've been seeing lately, we can either get on board with the actual Jesus or we can suffer the consequences of failing to get Jesus.



Once we get that straight, Jesus, God made man, graciously and gently calms our fears, and lifts us up. Allow Jesus to give you permission to approach Him as a friend, never assume that authority for yourself. In the military, you are oftentimes required to report to a senior officer – we'd call it a rug dance. The procedure, once given permission to approach is to stand at

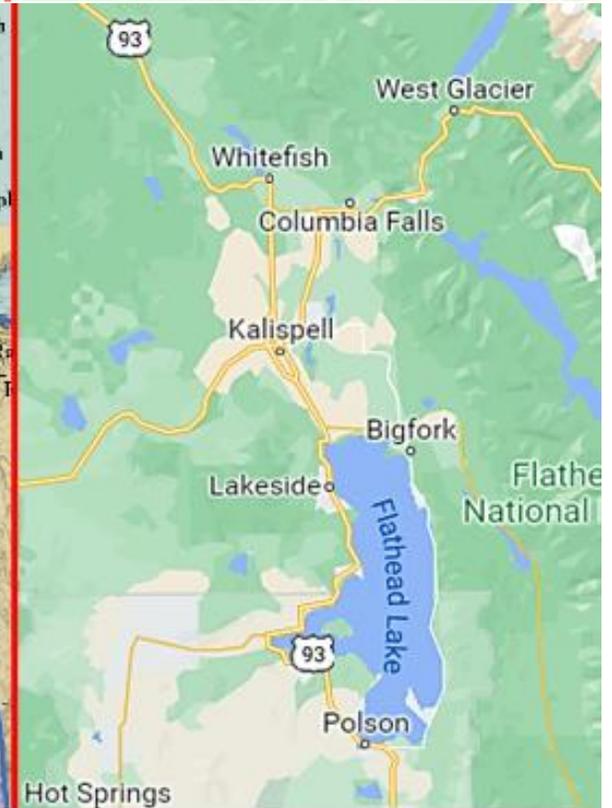
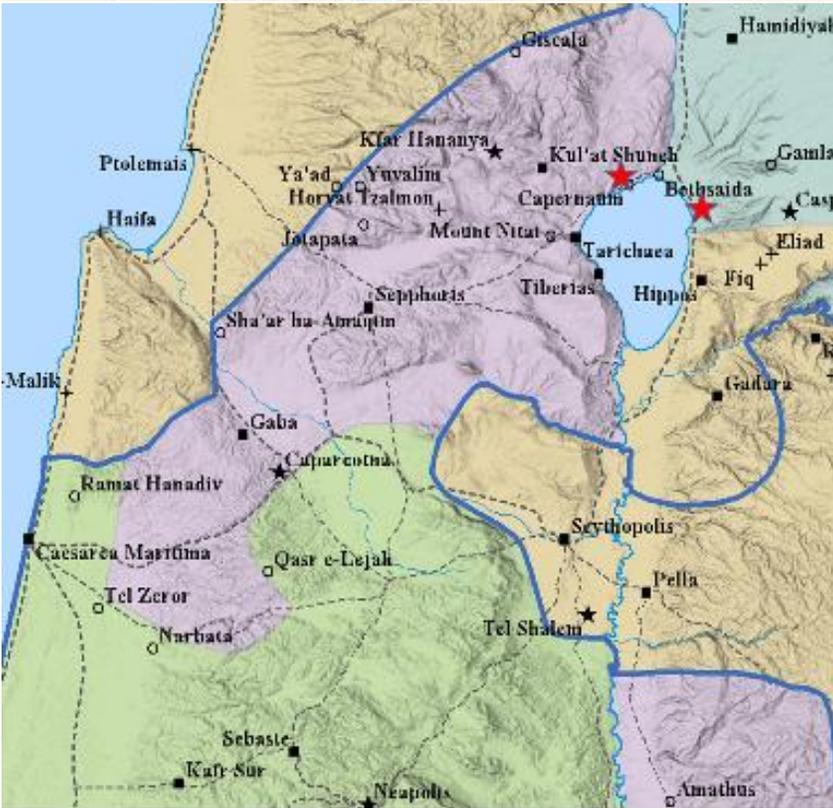
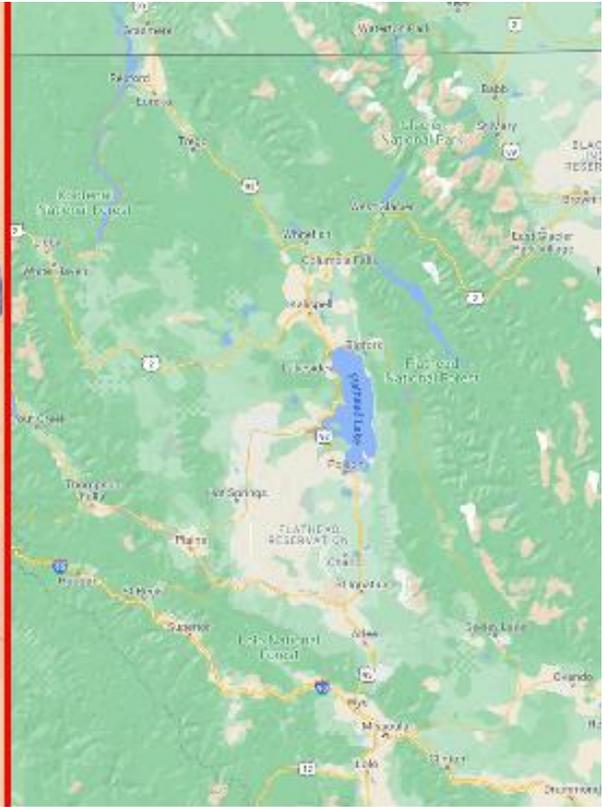
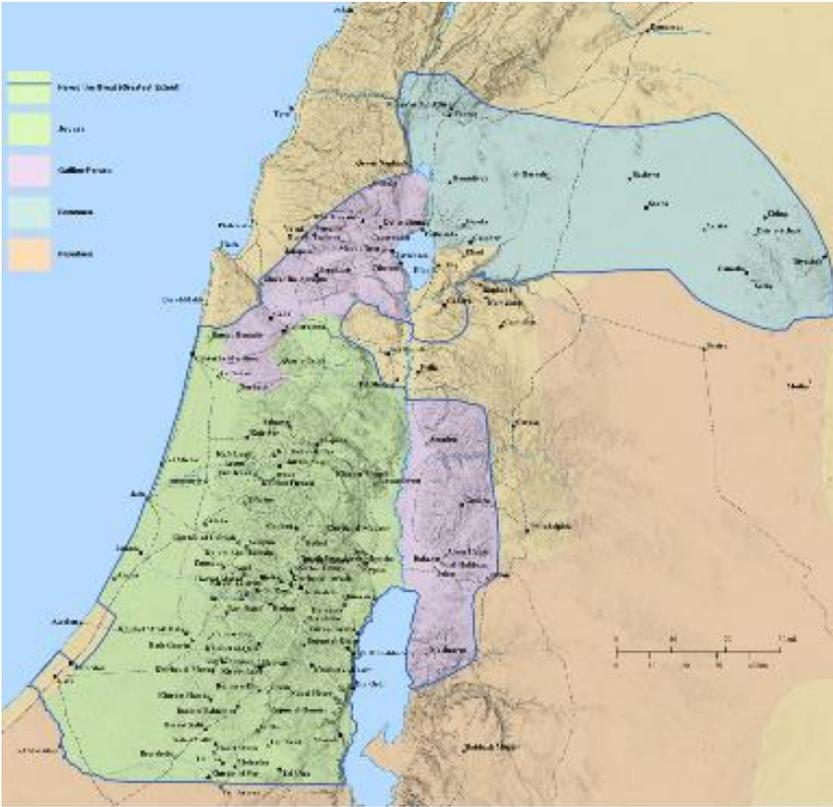
attention, salute under certain situations, and in a clear confident voice say something like, “Sir, Private last class McGillicuddy, reporting as ordered, Sir.” You would then remain in that position of attention, holding your salute if appropriate, until the senior officer gave you permission to be otherwise. To be “at ease,” to take a seat, to relax a bit.

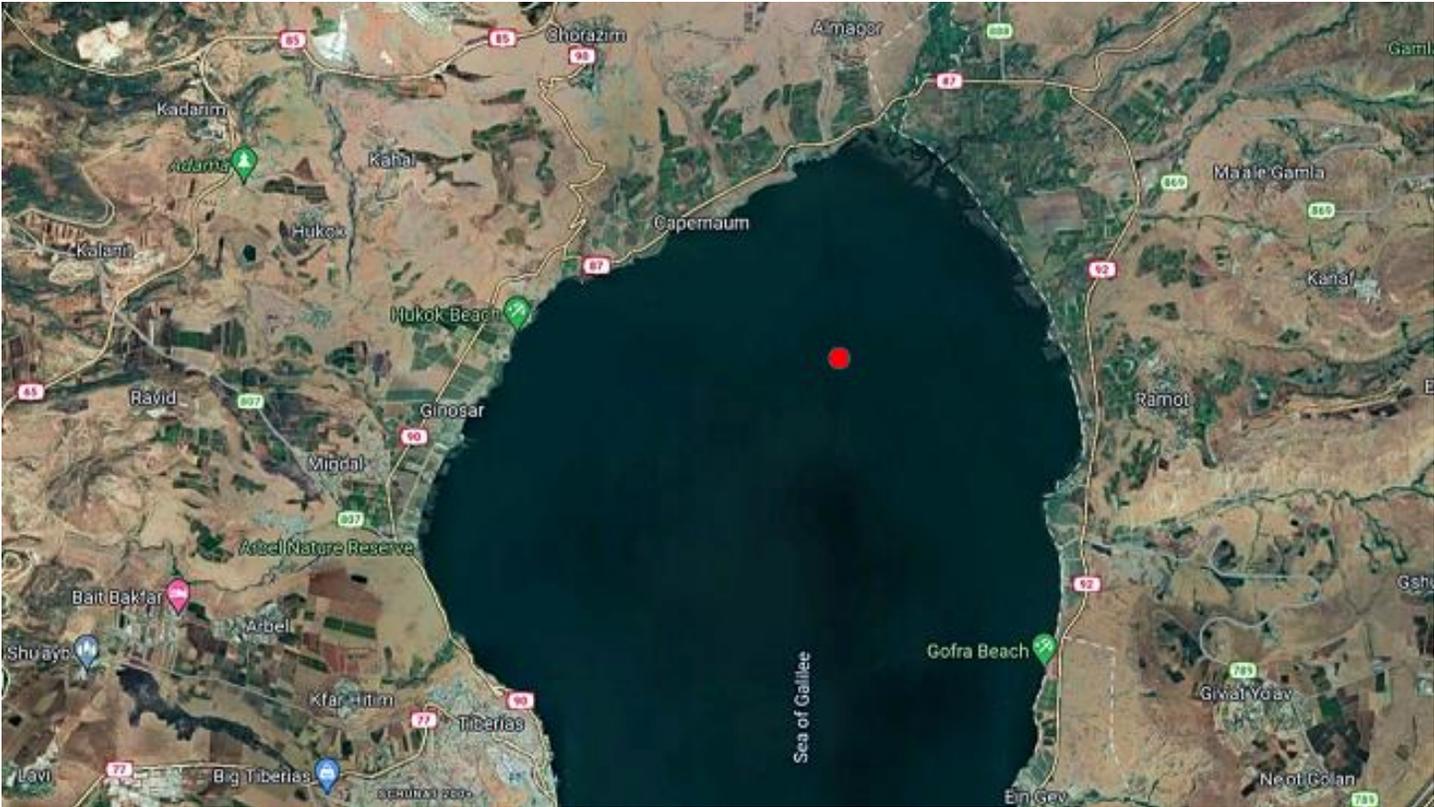
Shouldn't we have at least as much respect for Jesus as a one-star general has for a two-star general? Don't believe me? Jesus gave an example in Luke chapter 14 where He said, “when you are invited (to a wedding feast), go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. 11“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Let Jesus be the one Who exalts you. Never take exalting yourself, upon yourself.

Well, Jesus calmed His Disciples in a gentle and gracious way and John wrote that “they were willing to receive Him into the boat.” That phrasing hints at a greater understanding on the part of the Apostles. It is

what they call a theologically pregnant statement. It isn't to say that after seeing Jesus walk on water, and stop the wind, and calm the seas, that they totally got Him, but it was definitely a step in the right direction.

They each received Him into their boat and a little more into their heart. John was not interested in muddying that critical point with any of the extra details found in the other accounts. Jesus acted like God and Jesus talked like God and His Apostles received Him as God just a little bit more.





The boat landed near Capernaum at daybreak and shortly thereafter what remained of the crowd Jesus fed, started looking for Him where they thought He was. They knew that there was only one boat. They knew that the Apostles had launched without Jesus aboard. They knew that He had gone up the mountain alone and so they were waiting for Him to come back down the mountain and provide breakfast.

Evidently, they wouldn't even get a Continental Breakfast because Jesus was nowhere to be found. He could have gone anywhere and so the best lead the crowd had was to go where His disciples had gone hoping that Jesus would meet up with them at some future point.

During the day boats dotted the lake. In this case, boats from Tiberias came to the eastern shore and many of the crowd were able to get a ride over to Capernaum. They were eagerly seeking Jesus, and this was the best shot.



In verse 25 we find the group seeking Jesus befuddled. The question “Rabbi, when did You get here?” means when, and how, did You get here. They are confused. How could Jesus beat them to Capernaum? While the term Rabbi is one of respect it falls far short of what Jesus had already earned through His demonstration of feeding the multitude. What’s ironic is they only afford Him a title which basically means teacher, and they are about to prove that they will not accept His teaching.

Jesus completely ignored their question and went straight to the heart of the matter. You might ask why

Jesus would entirely disregard their question of how and when did you get here ahead of us? Two things, it's a bit of, "what would it prove?" and a bit of, "Jesus never flaunted His power."



# Do you want to be healed?

John 5:6

To the first point, Jesus had already performed many signs and the people still didn't believe Who He truly was. So, telling them that He walked across the lake at a leisurely pace until He took compassion on His guys rowing their guts out. Explaining to them that He was acting like God because He was God. Stepping into the boat, calming the storm, and instantly transporting the boat and her cargo to shore. Well, that wasn't going to

make any difference in them wanting Him to be Who they wanted Him to be.

To the second point is that Jesus, was the gracious and gentle God made man, not a showman. He came to Save, not to impress. Had Jesus unleashed His power openly and at will for the maximum effect, the people would have followed Him, and their allegiance to Him would have been a lie.

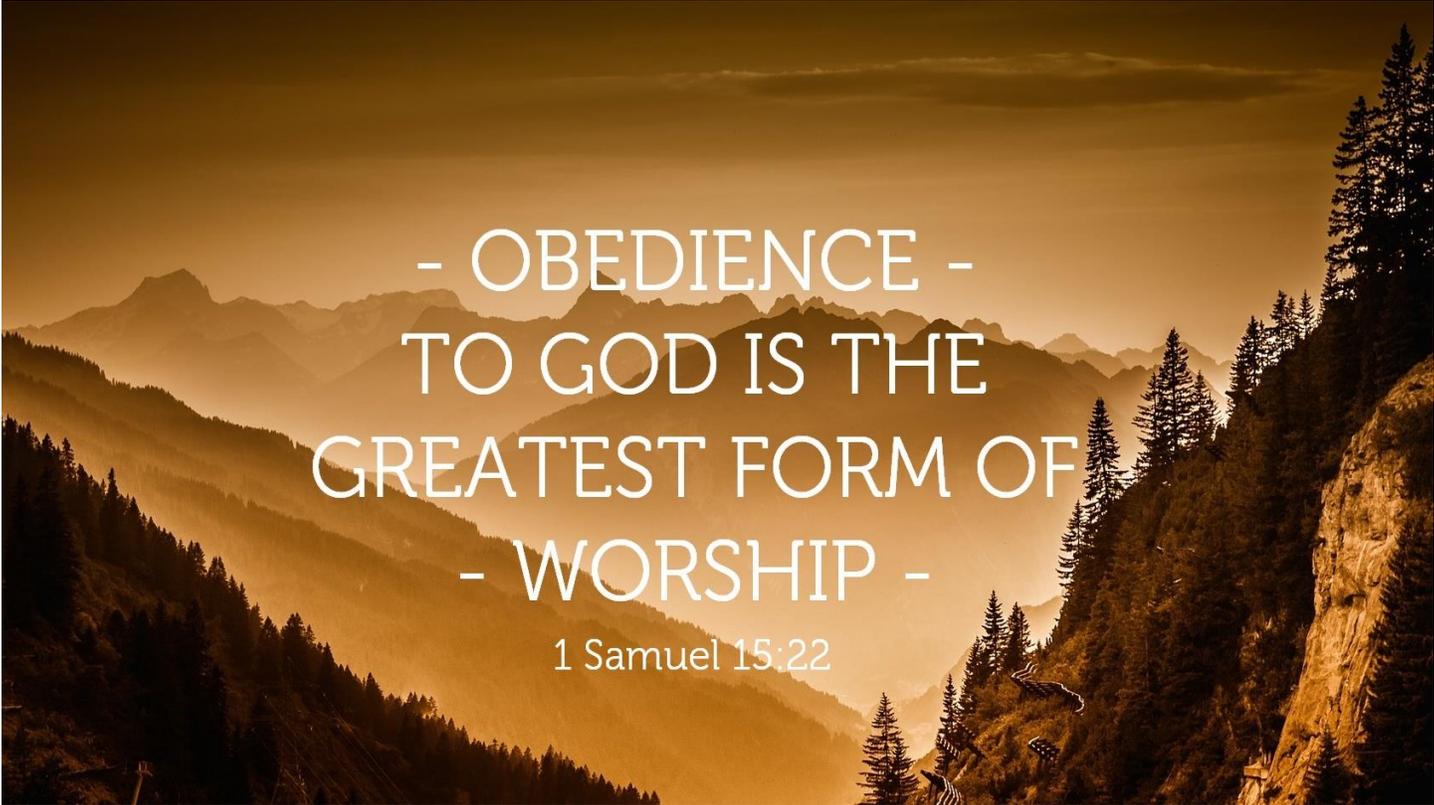
Allegiance to Christ that is born from sight, rather than faith, is self-serving, not God serving. That's a little tidbit that you may need to think about for a while.



Instead of answering their question, Jesus bluntly tells them that the reason that they are so eager to find Him is because they filled their bellies. My dad used to say, “Root hog... or die.” Like Jesus, dad wasn’t really talking about food. It is the mentality that you’ll go get yours. It is to be focused on what you need, what you want, what you think is best.

The people wanted to make Jesus lead them in an armed rebellion against the governing authorities. They wanted Him to start the revolution – to stage the coup – to kick off the civil war. Let the games begin. It is way past time to kill, maim, and destroy those vile, evil, ungodly people with whom we disagree. Jesus, say the word and we will make Israel Great Again.

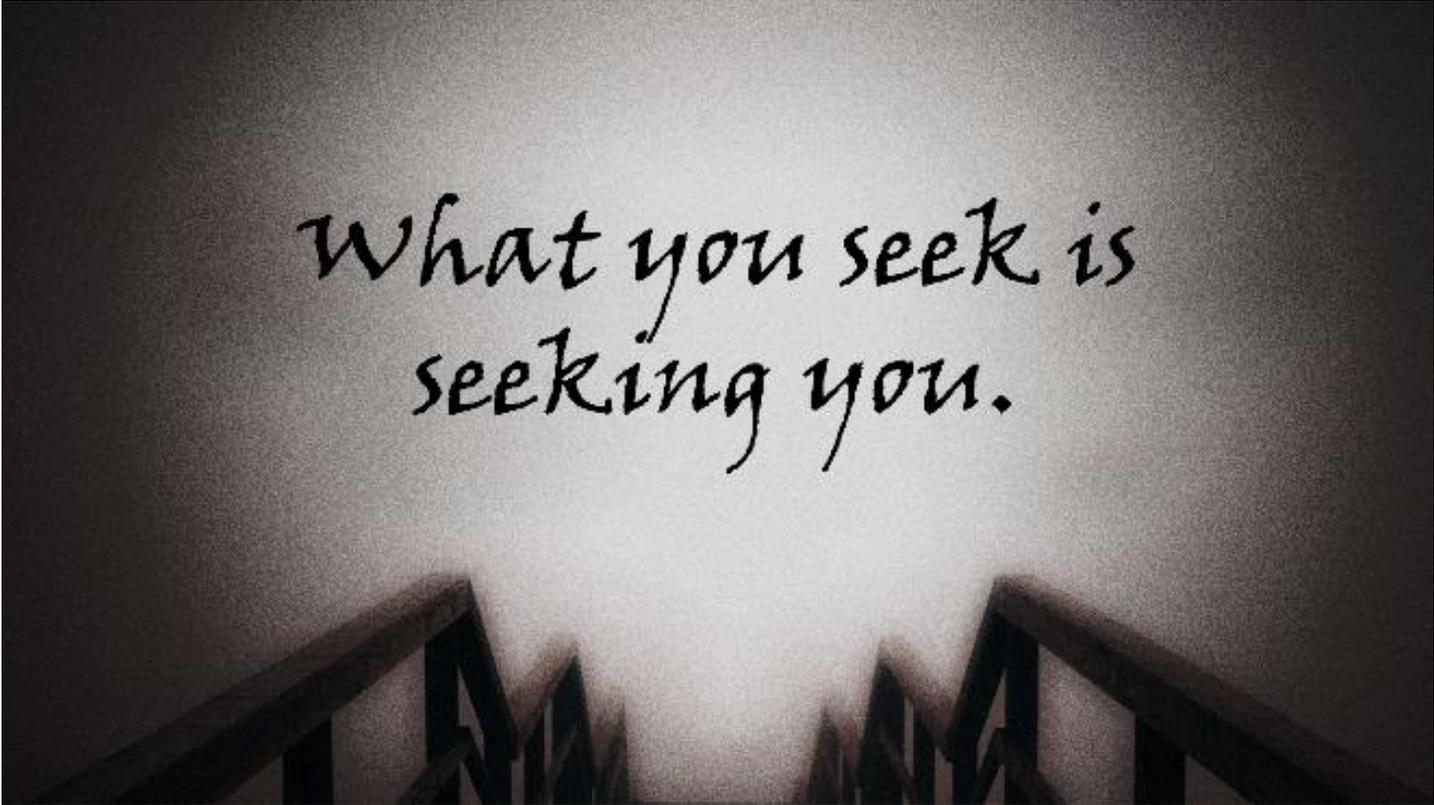
You must examine why you believe what you believe in order to accept Jesus just as He is without tainting Him and His reputation with your opinions. Otherwise, this picture is a picture of us.



- OBEDIENCE -  
TO GOD IS THE  
GREATEST FORM OF  
- WORSHIP -

1 Samuel 15:22

Earlier these same people had called Jesus the Prophet. The Prophet was supposed to be a figure who would speak the Words of God. Words that would condemn their sinfulness, rebuke their hardness of heart, but present them with God's plan to fix it. He would give to them God's plan of Salvation and give to them a heart of flesh. These people, like all people, wanted a King who would satisfy their needs and grant their desires, not challenge their opinions, and require their obedient conformity.



What you seek is  
seeking you.

We have all seen signs that point to Who Jesus is. Do we take them as signs to conform our understanding, or do we foolishly assume that those signs simply mean that Jesus is here to do our bidding?

It's easy to be a Christian who thinks that Jesus is on your side – He's not. He's trying to get you on His side – that's a whole lot harder.