

Scenes of Discipleship: "Will ye also go away?"

Western Christadelphian
Bible School

Day #3



Do you want to
go away as
well?

John 6:67

“From this *time*, many of his disciples went back, and were no longer walking with him. So Jesus said *to the twelve*, ‘You also are not wanting to go-away, *are you?*’” (John 6:66-67 DLNT)

How can we address the desire to turn back and no longer walk with Jesus?

Examples of disconnection between Jesus and the Twelve

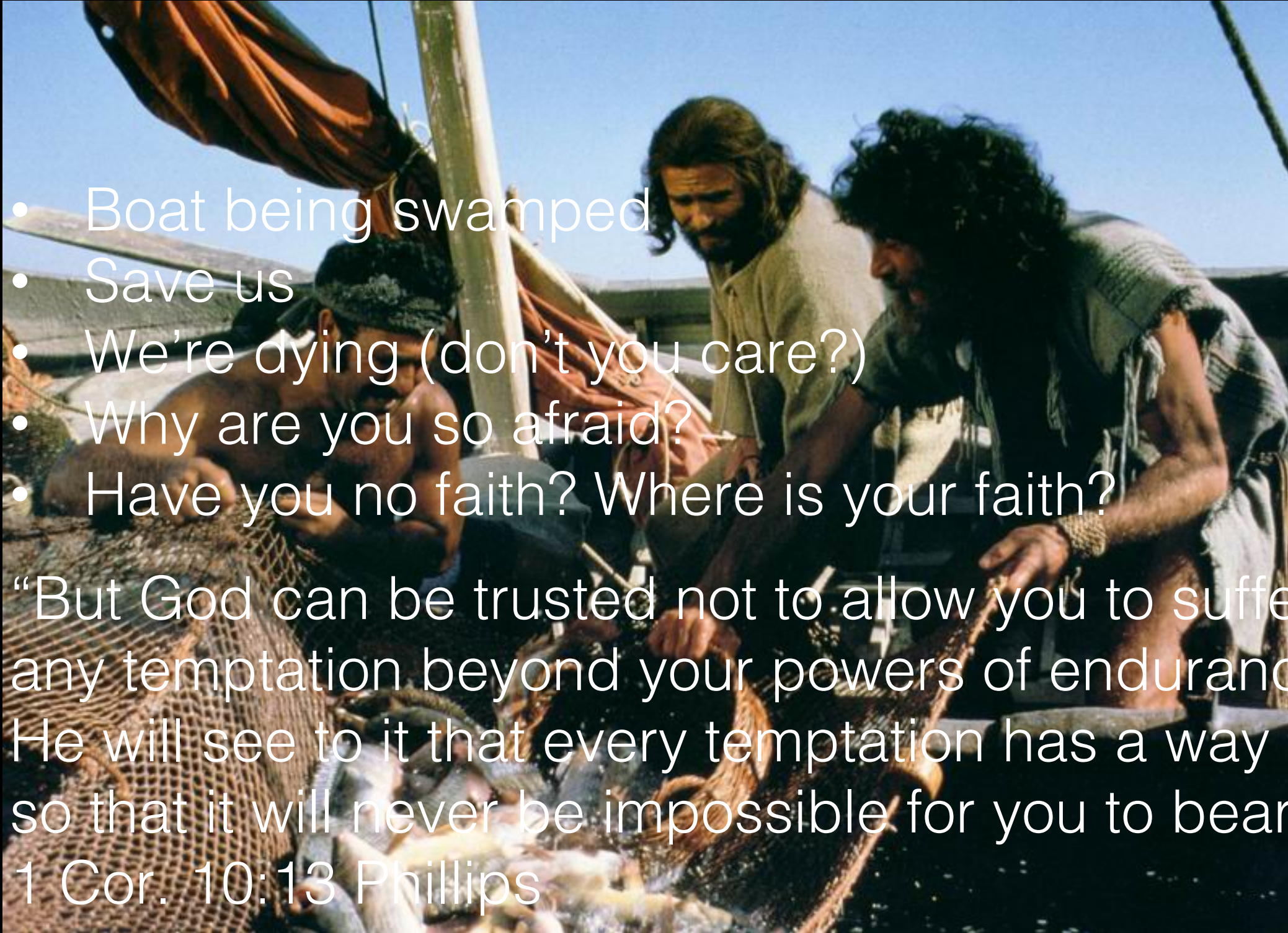
Rebuking the waves Walking on water No bread

On-going battle amongst the Twelve regarding who was the greatest amongst them

The events in John 6

Rebuking the waves

Matt. 8:2ff.; Mk. 4:37ff.; Lk. 8:22 ff.

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- Boat being swamped
 - Save us
 - We're dying (don't you care?)
 - Why are you so afraid?
 - Have you no faith? Where is your faith?

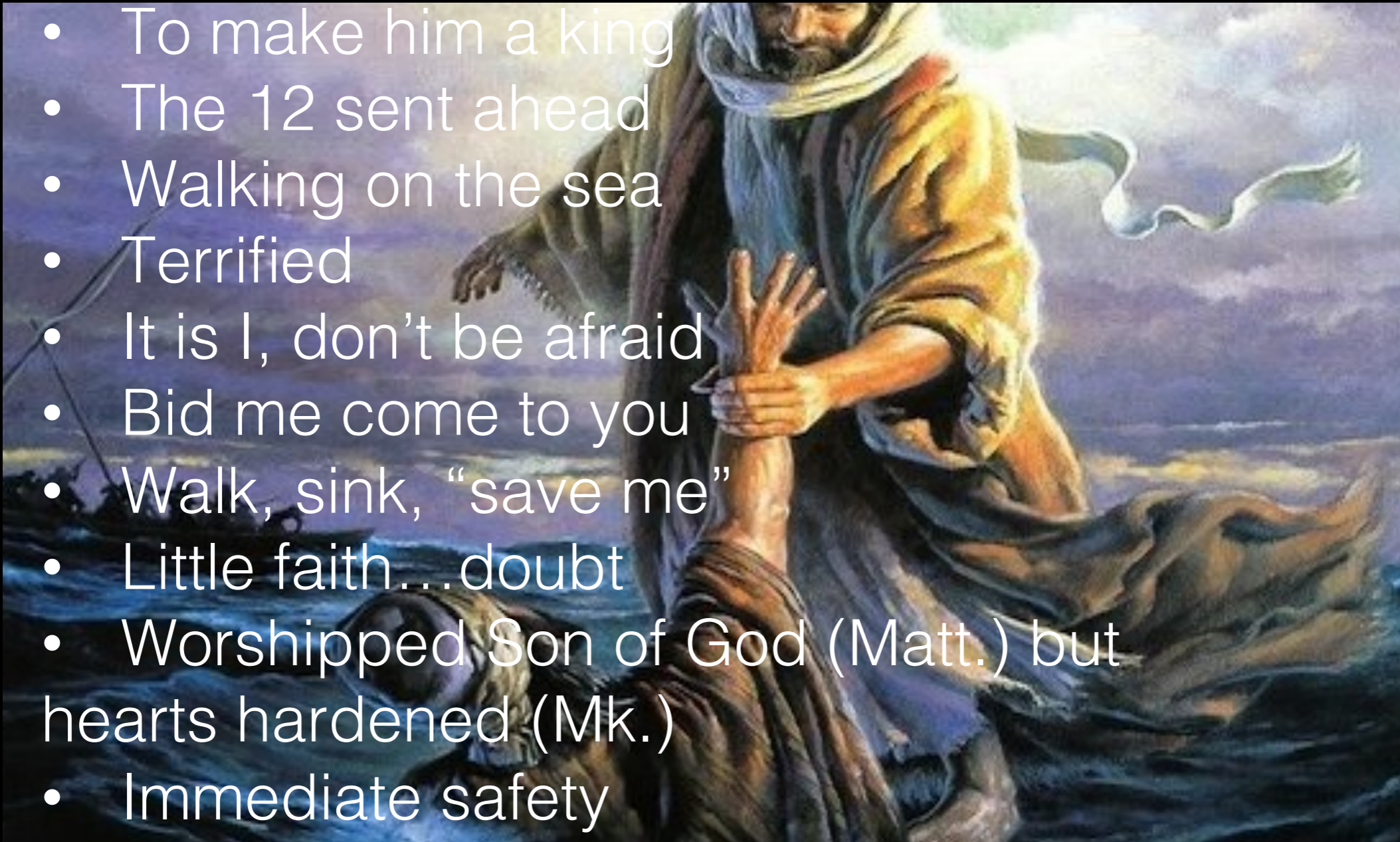
“But God can be trusted not to allow you to suffer any temptation beyond your powers of endurance. He will see to it that every temptation has a way out, so that it will never be impossible for you to bear it.”

1 Cor. 10:13 Phillips

Walking on water

Matt. 14:22ff.; Mk. 6:48ff.; Jn. 6:16 ff.

- To make him a king
- The 12 sent ahead
- Walking on the sea
- Terrified
- It is I, don't be afraid
- Bid me come to you
- Walk, sink, "save me"
- Little faith...doubt
- Worshipped Son of God (Matt.) but hearts hardened (Mk.)
- Immediate safety

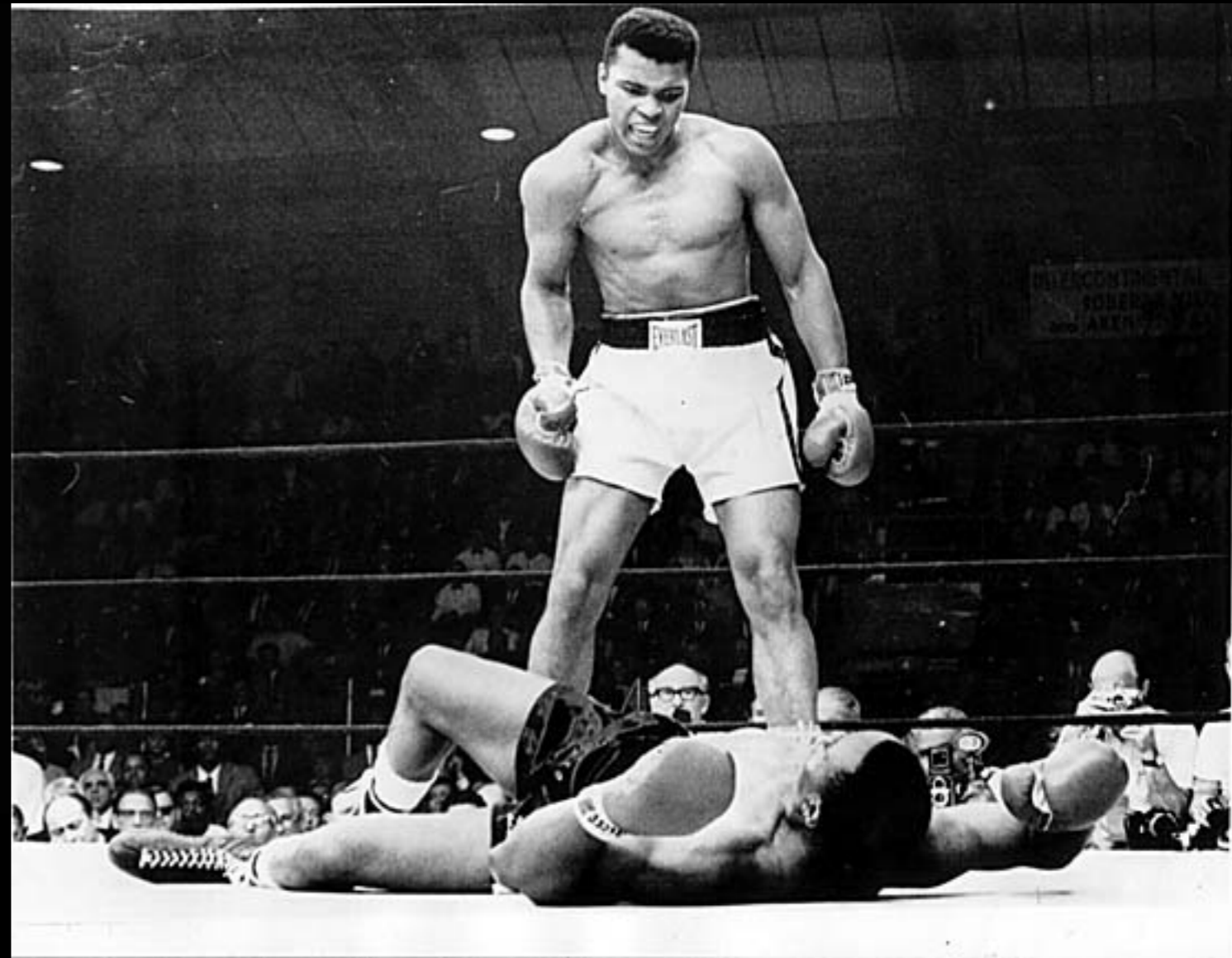




"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."

Enough About You, Let's Talk About Me

Whenever Jesus starts to teach the twelve about his crucifixion, the twelve change the subject to be about identifying the greatest amongst them.



"An argument arose among them as to which of them was the **greatest...**" (Lk. 9:46-48 ESV).

"Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let these words sink into your ears: **The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.**' But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying"

(Lk. 9:43-45 ESV).

"And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you discussing on the way?' But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the **greatest**" (Mk. 9:33-34 ESV).

"They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be **delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him**. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.' But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him" (Mk. 9:30-32 ESV)

"And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What do you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, "**Grant us to sit**, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?' And they said to him, 'We are able.' And Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized...'" (Mk. 10:35-39 ESV).

"And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will **condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise**'" (Mk. 10:32-34 ESV).

The Battle for the Greatest: “Natural Family” Makes it Worse

"Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Say that these **two sons of mine are to sit**, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom'" (Matt. 20:20-21 ESV).

"And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and **they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified**, and he will be raised on the third day'" (Matt. 20:17-19 ESV).



"An argument arose among the scribes, to which the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? But Jesus, knowing the hearts of their minds, took a child and put it on his side and said to them, 'Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great' (Lk. 9:46-48 ESV).
"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matt. 18:1-6 ESV).

"A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves'" (Lk. 22:24-27 ESV).

"For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is **betrayed!**' And they began to **question one another**, which of them it could be who was going to do this" (Lk. 22:22-23 ESV).



Why were the disciples so resistant to Jesus' object lessons?

Why did the disciples always change the subject from Jesus' crucifixion to their own greatness?



"He humbled Himself, having become obedient to the point of death—and a death of a cross!" (Phil. 2:8 DLNT)

John 6: the Lord's Supper

- "After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?'" (Jn. 6:1-5)
- "Just as this broken loaf was scattered on top of the hills and as it was gathered together and became one, in the same way let your assembly be gathered together from the remotest parts of the land into your kingdom" (*Didache*)

The Meal's Setting

- The mountain (looking back to Ex. 24 and forward to Isa. 25)
- The seating arrangements: "much grass in that place..." (communal nature of the meal, symbol of mortality)



The Meal

- Jesus gives thanks [*eucharisteo*]
- Distributes the five barley (symbolizing firstfruits) loaves and two fish
- Everyone eats all that they want to the point of fullness (Lk. 1:51 " ...he has filled the hungry with good things...")

Gather the fragments left over,
so that nothing will be wasted.

John 6:12



"...he told his disciples, 'Gather up the leftover [perisseuo] fragments, that nothing may be lost [appolumi]'"(Jn. 6:12)

The Remnants

- "So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, 'This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!'" (Jn. 6:13-14)



John 6: Steps to No Longer Walking with Jesus

...they were about to come and take him by force to make him king

...you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

So they said to him, “Sir, give us this bread from now on!”

The Jews began to complain about Jesus.

...the Jews started fighting among themselves

Did what I say cause you to fall away?

"So the Jews grumbled about him..., Jesus answered them, 'Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets [Isa. 54:13], "**And they will all be taught by God.**" Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me... Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh'" (Jn. 6:41-51).

- "The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'"
- "But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood" (Gen. 9:4).
- "For the life of every creature is its blood: its blood is its life. Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, You shall not eat the blood of any creature, for the life of every creature is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off" (Lev. 17:14).
- So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever'"(Jn. 6:52-59).

Eating = Identity

Individual and Group

"Food is central to our sense of **identity**. The way any given human group eats helps it assert its diversity, hierarchy and organisation, but also, at the same time, both its oneness and the otherness of whoever eats differently. Food is also central to individual **identity**, in that any given human individual is constructed, biologically, psychologically and socially by the foods he/she chooses to incorporate" (Fischler).

Communal identity in The Lord's Supper



Motivation and Identity

"Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal'" (Jn. 6:26-27).



Identity in Christ

- (Gal. 2:20) "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
- (Gal. 4:18-19) "It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!"
- (2 Cor. 13:5) "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"

HOW?

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” (Jn. 6:60 ESV)

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But *if Christ is in you*, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” (Rom. 8:9-11 ESV)

"After this many of his disciples turned back and **no longer walked with him**. So Jesus said to the Twelve, 'Do you want to **go away** as well?'

"Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of **eternal life**, and we have **believed**, and have **come to know**, that you are the **Holy One of God**.'"

"I told You, Eternal One, 'You are my Lord, for the only good I know in this world is found in You alone.' The beauty of faith-filled people encompasses me. They are true, and my heart is thrilled beyond measure."
(Psa. 16 VOICE)



Child-like humility enables the disciple to deny self and find individual and collective identity in Jesus: "But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Gal. 6:14 ESV)

A circular graphic featuring a woman with long dark hair, seen from behind, wearing a white, flowing dress. She is standing on a beach, looking out at the ocean under a bright sky. The text "MY Identity IS FOUND IN Christ" is overlaid on the right side of the circle. The word "Identity" is in a large, elegant script font, while "MY", "IS FOUND IN", and "Christ" are in smaller, sans-serif fonts. "MY" is positioned above "Identity", "IS FOUND IN" is below it, and "Christ" is below that. The overall tone is serene and inspirational.

MY
Identity
IS FOUND IN
Christ

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