



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 6:14-21

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14When the people saw that [Jesus] had done a miraculous sign, they said, “This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world.” 15Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain. 16When evening came, Jesus’ disciples went down to the lake. 17They got into a boat and were crossing the lake to Capernaum. It was already getting dark and Jesus hadn’t come to them yet. 18The water was getting rough because a strong wind was blowing. 19When the wind had driven them out for about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the water. He was approaching the boat and they were afraid. 20He said to them, “I AM. Do not be afraid.” 21Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and just then the boat reached the land where they had been heading.” (Jn.6:14-21 CEB)

Message Summary:

John records the awe-inspiring account of Jesus walking on water, a pivotal moment in his Gospel. This event, coupled with Jesus’ miraculous feeding of the 5,000, parallels Israel’s Red Sea-crossing and their reliance on manna during Moses’ time. John juxtaposes Jesus and Moses, underscoring Jesus’ claim that ‘Moses wrote about me.’ Jesus’ depiction as a “Mosaic Messiah” (not a “Davidic Messiah”) emphasizes his role as the long-awaited Prophet promised by Moses & the Prophet-King revered in Jewish tradition. Jesus’ own sea-crossing, which eclipses Moses’ Red Sea-crossing, is a theophany—a powerful manifestation of God—with Jesus declaring “I AM,” adopting God’s own self-designation. Jewish tradition exalted Moses as a prophet, king, even as ‘god,’ translated to heaven & enthroned. Yet Jesus, the incarnate God, fulfills & supersedes Moses. In the radiant revelation of God in Christ, all previous figures fade into mere shadows; none compares to Jesus, who fulfills the Old Testament’s prophecies and promises. Let us enthrone Jesus in our hearts and lives, dispelling every

notion of exalted humans –“Moses-like”figures. At best,they are mere servants of the Lord Jesus, no match for his divine majesty.

QUESTIONS:

1. Scholars say “Jn. 5:46 sets the agenda for Jn.6...It’s a full scale e.g....of the assertion...‘Moses wrote of Jesus’.”
 - a. In what ways is Jesus presented as a “Moses-like” figure in John 6?
 - b. How do the 2 events—Jesus’ feeding 5,000 & walking on water—create a parallel between Jesus & Moses?
2. How does the peoples’ reaction to Jesus’ feeding the 5,000—in 6:14-15—show that they were linking Jesus to the OT figure of Moses?
 - a. Which part of their reaction(in 6:14-15)is directly related to an OT prophecy?
 - b. Which part of their reaction(in 6:14-15)is not directly related to an OT prophecy?Then,what might be the cause of this reaction?(Is there something related to Moses?) Discuss.
 - c. The message & materials indicate that many Jews at Jesus’ time exalted Moses beyond what’s written in the OT. Jewish folklore describes“Moses’ enthronement, his translation to heaven at his death, and his divinization.”How does John’s Gospel relate or respond to this exaltation/veneration? Discuss.
 - d. If we compare Jesus’ Sea of Galilee-crossing(6:16-21) with Moses’(& Israel’s) Red Sea-crossing, who is superior –Jesus or Moses? In what way(s) is Jesus’ superiority shown?Discuss.
 - e. Jewish tradition & extra-biblical texts exhibit a tendency to exalt Moses; are we (as Christians today) immune from similar tendencies? If not, how are such tendencies manifest among Christians today? What lessons or warnings might John’s Gospel suggest on this issue?Discuss.