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The Gospel According to John / John 6:16–34; Psalm 107:28–32

1. The One Walking on Rough Waters
 2. The Food that Endures to Eternal Life
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Introduction

- Continuation of the narrative (Miraculous feeding ending = Enthusiasm of people, Christ's withdrawal)
- Parallel account (Mark 6:46 "*Christ went up on the mountain to pray.*")

Outline: The passage and events to look at

- Vv. 16-21 - Christ walking on the sea (same event with Peter walking)
- Vv. 22-34 - Start of Christ's discourse on significance of feeding (Only "Part 1" today, to be continued in next sermons)

For this morning, we'll look at those two passages highlighting

- (1) The one walking on rough waters, and
- (2) Christ's words concerning the food that endures to eternal life.

Main Point 1. The One Walking on Rough Waters

Let's look and follow the narrative.

- **Verse 16-17**
 - We could only speculate how Christ managed to escape the crowd (e.g., like Gandalf in *The Hobbit*) —> Nevertheless, shows his power to get out of sight
 - Synoptic gospels = pinauna na rin talaga ni Christ 'yong mga disciples.

The Windstorm (not Thunderstorm)

- **Verse 18**

- Common portrayal (thunderstorm) —> Not reasonable for experienced fishermen
- Must be **windstorm**
 - Geography ("Golan Heights")
 - Sudden and unpredictable strong winds (cf. Youtube video)
- Not thunderstorm, but still **a storm**
- Rough waves, scary and hard to travel (cf. Mark 6:48, "[Christ] saw [the disciples] making headway **painfully**, for the wind was against them...")

Then in the midst of that storm...

Christ walking, the disciples afraid

- **Verse 19**

- Natural, sino ba namang hindi matatakot no'n?! (cf. Matthew 14 "ghost")

"It is I (me)..."

- **Verse 20**

- Ἐγώ εἰμι—which means, "I am."
- Great "I am" statements of Christ. Depending on contexts, those words Ἐγώ εἰμι or "I am" in English **is the equivalent of the covenant name of God in the Old Testament—"I AM."** (Yahweh) —> Eternal, self-existent, ever-present.
- Scholars - Christ doesn't use it to point out that he's Yahweh (Disciples also understood, simply *"It's me. Don't be afraid... Ako 'to. 'Wag kayo matakot."*)
- Personal belief
 - **Although it is not yet the immediate meaning** of Christ's words for the disciples back then, Christ was **preparing them to**

hear that same expression again with the more significant meaning.

- And likewise, John uses this expression to prepare us his readers to hear it again from Christ's lips in **John 8:58**. (Christ's clear claim that he's Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, etc... the Eternal Logos)

And so because Jesus is God, it is no surprise that he could do this great sign of walking on water.

"... do not be afraid"

- *"do not be afraid."* (Same words of comfort by God in OT, until NT in the person of Christ)

Then, after Christ's words of comfort...

The boat safely landing

Verse 21

- "Immediately" —> Teleport? Maybe not.
- Mark 6:51, it says, *"And he got into the boat with them, and the **wind ceased...**"* The windstorm stopped. And because of that **they no longer struggled** to get to the land to which they were going.
- Unpredictable storm subject to Christ (cf. Prologue, *"all things were made through him,"* and so all things remain under his control.

Observations and Applications

a. Christ's rescue for the disciples

- Crowd = Christ goes away from them and leaves them.
- Disciples who truly belong to him (except Judas of course) = Christ came to them, to rescue them, and **bring them safely to the place they were going.**

Psalm 107

- Different deliverances for those who seek help and hope in God

- *Sea associated with danger and fear and even death

But look at Psalm 107:28–30

- Christ did to the disciples... Triune God continues to do today.

b. Leading us safely home

- Christian life
 - Many storms
 - Strong winds and waves of trouble—hardships, crises, even persecutions —> Hard to go on
 - Dark hours of weaknesses and temptations —> discouragements, doubts, and despairs.

Hinding-hindi na mawawala sa buhay natin 'yon.

- But take heart, O Christian, **the Lord walks even on our roughest days and darkest nights** to take us by the hand and **rescue us from all troubles**. (He helps often in unexpected times and ways)
- Troubles will not be for eternity. "He will hold me fast"
 - Father - Causes everything good
 - Spirit - Preserving us
 - Christ - Will return—all will be calm and he'll **bring us to the place to which we are going**.

So, brothers and sisters, let us not be afraid. Our Triune God will be with us until we safely arrive home in paradise.

[TRANSITION]: That ends the day, since in verse 22, it's already "*the next day*." ... SEGUE: Christ begins to teach about the food that endures to eternal life.

Main Point 2. The Food that Endures to Eternal Life

Verse 22

- People carefully watching and waiting for Christ... If not with disciples, must be somewhere else no one knows.

Verse 23-24

- Siguro nanghula na lang sila. "... baka nasa ibang lugar na pala siya, hindi lang natin napansin."

Verse 25

- They're like saying, *"Nandito ka pala. Kailan pa? Paano?"*

Now Christ could have heightened the people's enthusiasm kung ang naging reply niya, *"Kagabi lang actually, no'ng naglakad Ako sa dagat."* Malamang mas maa-amaze 'yong mga tao no'n sa Kanya.

But as we saw in Christ's past conversations with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman—**he goes straight to the true issue of the heart.**

Start of the "Bread of Life" Discourse

Seeing the sign, but missing the significance of it (verse 26)

Verse 26

- (cf. verse 2 - People's initial motive for signs) ... At nakita nga nila 'yong signs in the miraculous feeding, at nabusog pa sila do'n sa pinakain ni Christ.
- Problem: They saw the signs, but not the significance
 - I.e., God miraculously fed the Israelites in the wilderness with manna and meat = Christ miraculously feeds the people through the bread and the fish.
 - God provides = Christ provides (i.e., in fact, he is the ultimate provision)

Not just repetition, but fulfillment: Manna vs Bread of Life

- Greater fulfillment of God's OT works and promises... Manna ultimately points to the true bread that brings true and lasting satisfaction (OT manna = physical hunger; NT bread = spiritual poverty)

- Cf. vv. 49-50, Forefathers died (Manna = only temporal life; Christ's bread = greater, eternal life)

Crowd seeking Christ due to physical satisfaction

- 'Yon ang hindi na-intindihan no'ng crowd, kahit nakita na nila mismo 'yong sign and miracle.
- That's why Christ says, "*you are seeking me... because you ate your fill of loaves.*" **Dahil lang nabusog kayo.** Naka-focus sila 'don sa **temporary satisfaction.**

So Christ teaches them in verse 27...

"Don't work for the food that perishes..." (verse 27)

Verse 27

- Not suggesting don't work... But he's using the **everyday reality of work to point out something.**
- Working = in order to eat. (Even today, we work to eat and provide food on the table)
- **That is our daily fundamental concern.**
- Christ's argument = The food that you're working for and is fundamental concern—it doesn't last (perishes). (That's why we don't stop working --- nauubos ang pera at pagkain)
- Christ = "Don't make that your most fundamental concern. **Rather, what you must be concerned with the most is what will endure forever—for eternity.**

What exactly Christ gives (*For on him God the Father has set his seal.*) [i.e., authenticated that Christ is the Messiah, the only way to eternal life])

Now, the people replied...

"What must we do...[work that God requires]" (verse 28)

Verse 28

- “What must we do to do the work that God requires?” (Sounds like willing and able to do any work God requires).
- cf. *“which the Son of Man will give to you.”* You don’t work for it.
- **Eternal life, eternal salvation is not by works.** It is through the work of Christ (where he fulfills all righteousness required to satisfy God’s justice), but (the reward that he has obtained by his work) it is given to us as a gift.

That’s why the Lord responds...

“Believe in him” (verse 29)

Verse 29

- That is what requires from you—**faith**. He requires you **not to work for it, but to believe**.
- Not abstract... Object of faith is Christ

So given this...

“What sign do you do...? (verse 30)

Verse 30

- Most idiotic and stupid statement (“Hindi pa ba ‘yon sign?”)
- Observe: Spiritual blindness of men (Talagang kailangan natin ng **tulong ng Diyos** mismo para **maliwanagan** ang ating mga isipan sa mga **espirituwal na katotohanan**.)

Then, they added...

The people’s further blindness

Verse 31-33

- Focused on physical bread; failure to see manna pointing to Christ.

Verse 34

- “Always” - Assumes that they’ll keep get hungry again so Christ must give it always.
- Cf. Samaritan woman in chapter 4 (living water) - *“Sir, give me this water...”*

So since they understand it very little, Christ will need to give more explanation. But will the people eventually understand? Will they finally get it?

'Yon po ang titingnan natin sa mga susunod na sermon.

Final Implications and Application

But friends, as we looked at Christ's words here, what does it mean to us now?

Well, let me say this, **the very words of Christ to the crowd here apply to us today.**

a. "Do not work for the food that perishes..."

- First, we need to hear: "*Do not work for the food that perishes...*" (we too are pre-occupied with things in life)
- Fact: Everything in life that we work hard for perishes and **we won't bring to the next life** (house, car, education, bank savings)
- Christ: "They are not and should not be our most fundamental concern in life."

CLARIFY: Doesn't mean don't work or pursue goals. Go ahead, live each day, work, get married, build your family, build your legacy...

- Yet we must remember **the primary and ultimate purpose and calling of God** (Acts 17:26-27)
- Whatever work or boundaries in life, God's purpose = We know him (reconciled) through Christ
- The call of God remains in Isaiah 55:2-3.

POINT: The things of this life will not bring us eternal life. We must come to him, and hear, and believe.

And so the second thing that we learn from Christ here...

b. "This is the work of God, that you believe..."

VERSE 29

- Simplicity of the gospel and its call (Christ already did the work, we simply believe. Justification is by faith alone, never by works.)
- We **only believe** in Christ and his finished work. **And that's it—we are forgiven, we are saved—guaranteed. That's the good news. That's how simple it is.**
- **Clarify:** Simplicity of gospel or faith = Not "basta maniwala lang," kahit anong gawin natin, kahit paano pa tayo mamuhay—basta naniwala na tayo sa **isip**, ligtas na tayo.

True faith as knowledge, assent, and trust

- Knowledge (we get to know him)
- Assent (Agreement, conviction in heart that he and his words are true)
- Trust (bigay ng buong pagtitiwala at pag-asa)

Hebrews 11:6 - *"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that **he rewards** those who seek him."*

Yamang tayo'y makasalanan at Siya ang tanging Panginoon at Tagapagligtas (as he PROMISED)—we **come** to him in our hearts, **humbly confessing** our sins, **receiving and thanking** him for his work for us, and **following** him in our lives.

That, friends, is what it means to truly believe in Christ (what to **ask from God** too)

Relate: True faith doesn't set aside learning

- Simplicity of faith doesn't set aside learning (maraming alam = can be beneficial)
- POINT: In all of these understanding that we gain from his means of grace—the preaching of the Word every Sunday, Bible Study lessons, books, and so on—the fundamental and most important thing is—**do you believe and embrace Christ?**
- Wrong learning/knowing
 - Knowing a lot, but still not repenting and coming to Christ
 - Knowing a lot, just to point others' errors, but not getting closer to

Christ

Faith in Christ is all that matters

Whoever you are and whatever you do in this life—this is what God requires of you, *“Believe in him whom he has sent.”*

Mark 8:36, *“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?”*

- We’ll all stand before God (not bringing anything from earth)(rich or poor, criminal or not)
- And when we all stand before that great judgment throne of God—**it’s all that matters:** Are you a believer in Christ? Are you clothed with the righteousness of Christ through faith?

Christ: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.”* Believe in him.

***(*Prayer for unbelievers and believers*)