**The Gospel of John:**

**Genuine and Fake Disciples**

*John 6:16-21*

**Context**

The scriptures repeatedly warn us to make sure that we are in the faith. Jesus tells us in

**Matthew 7:13-14**-“*Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.****14****For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

The nature of a genuine disciple vs a fake disciple will be discerned over time. There is a serious danger of being deceived to believe one thing, when the opposite is true. Jesus gives us a sober warning to count the cost of being a follower:

**Luke 14:27-35**—*Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.****28****For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?****29****Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him,****30****saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’****31****Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?****32****Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.****33****So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.* ***34****“Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned?****35****It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”*

* ***Love Him Supremely****—The true disciple of Jesus will love Him supremely—above all else—even his own life or the life of his family.* ***Matthew 10:34-37****—Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.****35****For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;****36****and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household.* ***37****“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*
* **Test/Examine Yourselves—2 Corinthians 13:5**—*Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?*
* **Endurance—Mark 13:13**—*You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.*
* ***Obedience—Luke 6:46****—“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?*
* **Defectors—2 Timothy 4:10**—*for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.*
* **1 John 2:19**—*They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.*
* **Matthew 13:20-22**—*The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;****21****yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.****22****And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*
* **Saddens our God—Jeremiah 2:13**—“*For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water.*
* **Lamentations 2:11**—*My eyes fail because of tears, My spirit is greatly troubled; My heart is poured out on the earth Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, When little ones and infants faint In the streets of the city.*
* **Luke 19:41-42**—*When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it,****42****saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.*

*John chapter 6 tells us that not all “disciples” are genuine believers. However, all true believers are disciples. And as true disciples our goal is to pursue holiness and sanctification.*

**John 6:16-21**—Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, **17**and 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. **18**The sea *began* to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. **19**Then, 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. **20**But He said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” **21**So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

**Narrative**

* Synoptic Gospel accounts: **Matthew 14:22-36** and **Mark 6:45-52**
* This miracles fits into John’s polemical argument that Jesus is the Christ by identifying His sovereignty over the laws of nature
* **Evening came**—twilight
* Jesus sends the crowd away
* The disciples go down to the sea—at least 7 of them were fishermen on this Sea so it would have been familiar territory
* The disciples were planning to go to Capernaum (v17)
* They would go a little way (Bethsaida) and presumably wait for the Lord there before continuing (**Mark 6:45**)
* Jesus goes to the mountain alone to pray
* A mighty storm (strong wind) arose and they were terrified
* Not the first time this scenario happened:

**Matthew 8:23-27**— *When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.****24****And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep.****25****And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing!”****26****He said to them, “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.****27****The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”*

**Mark 4:35-41**—*On that day, when evening came, He said to them, “Let us go over to the other side.”****36****Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him.****37****And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.****38****Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and \*said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”****39****And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.****40****And He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”****41****They became very much afraid and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”*

* **Fourth watch of the night**—3-6AM. They only made a few miles in 6+ hours
* Fear gripped them
* They were a long way from shore (middle of the sea—**Mark 6:47**)
* The wind pushed them out into the middle of the sea
* They were trying hard to get to shore but to no avail; only going 3-4 miles
* Jesus shows up walking on the shore; unhindered by the waves
* Terrified, crying out in fear because they said He was a ghost
* **He intended to pass by them** (**Mark 6:48**)—desiring to come alongside them
* He tells them to take courage and don’t be afraid
* Peter askes to come to Him on the water (**Matthew 14:28**) Why?   
  + **Matthew 26:58**—*But Peter was following Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and he came inside and sat down with the officers to see the outcome.*
  + **John 21:7**—*Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea.*
* OK, come. Peter got out and walked on the water but seeing the wind...
* Sinking, he cries out for the Lord to save him (**Matthew 14:30**)
* **Matthew 14:31**—*Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”*
* They both get into the boat
* The wind immediately stops
* **Matthew 14:33**—*And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!”*

**4 characters related to false disciples**

1. **The draw of the crowds**
2. **The draw to the show**
3. **The focus on the HERE and NOW**
4. **The focus on self-worship**