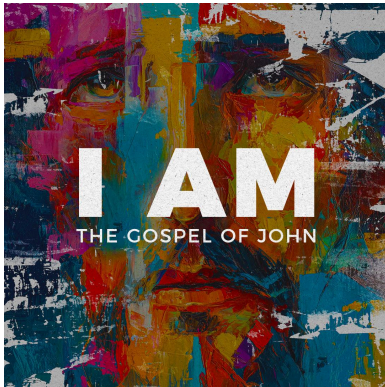


**Title:** Follow The Sign

**Series:** I Am

**Speaker:** Mark Mitchell

**Date:** July 12, 2026



## Introduction

In John 6, Jesus feeds the multitude and walks on water – two miraculous signs that point beyond themselves to reveal who He is. In both stories, the disciples are confronted with their own insufficiency, while Jesus demonstrates His complete sufficiency as the Messiah, the Son of God. John's purpose in writing this gospel is not to simply amaze us with miracles but to lead us to trust the One the signs point to.

**Key Texts:** John 6:1-24, John 20:30-31

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## Icebreaker

What is something you've tried to do entirely on your own, only to discover later that you really needed help?

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## Discussion Questions

1. Read **John 6:1-24 aloud together**. Make some initial observations about what stands out to you from this passage. What are some of the details that connect these two signs? What similarities and differences do you notice?
2. Where do we see the people (Philip, Andrew, the crowd, the disciples) initially misunderstand Jesus in this passage? What do these different responses reveal about humanity, and what do they reveal about God?
3. John intentionally connects Jesus to significant events in the Old Testament (Passover, the parting of the Red Sea, the provision of manna in the wilderness), revealing Him as a new Moses, leading a new kind of Exodus. What does this tell us about Jesus' identity and His mission?

4. In both of these stories, Jesus allows the disciples to experience their own insufficiency before he acts. Philip couldn't solve the issue of the shortage of food; the disciples themselves couldn't overcome the storm. Why do you think Jesus tests his disciples in this way? How have you experienced testing as an opportunity to refine your faith in Him?
5. Looking back at the different characters (Philip, Andrew, the crowd seeking to make Jesus king by force, the frightened disciples in the boat) in this passage, which character do you identify with most right now, and why?
6. Where are you currently experiencing your own insufficiency? How might God be inviting you to offer what you do have to Him? What would it look like for you to "invite Jesus into your boat?"

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## Key Takeaways

- The signs are meant to point to something beyond themselves. They point to Jesus, who says, "I AM the bread of life."
- Jesus is Creator and Lord of both the old creation and the creation to come.
- Don't look for a watertight argument (to believe in God). Look for a watertight person.
- Jesus will test us. He invites us to trust Him with the little we have, and to trust that He can use that to provide more than enough. He also shows up for us and comforts us in the midst of the storms when we invite Him to enter into our boat.
- Our insufficiency is no match for Jesus' all-sufficiency.

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## Silence and Solitude

This week, set aside 10-20 minutes to be alone with God. Begin by reflecting on Jesus' interactions with the disciples in John 6:1-24 and what Jesus' responses reveal about who He is. Spend a few minutes asking the Lord: "Where am I most aware of my insufficiency right now?" Resist the urge to "do" or "fix" anything - simply name it honestly before Him.

Next, ask, "What are my five loaves and two fish?" What little do you have to offer Jesus - perhaps your time, energy, abilities, finances, or even simply your willingness to trust Him.

Finally, take comfort in Jesus' words in verse 20: "It is I; don't be afraid." Imagine welcoming Jesus into your "boat" - the place where you feel overwhelmed, anxious, inadequate, doubtful. End your time surrendering that situation to Him in prayer, asking Him to show you what it looks like to trust in His sufficiency rather than your own this week.