

John 6

John 6.1-14 – Feeding of 5000

V 1 – *Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:32-44, Luke 9:10-17*

- This is one of only two miracles found in all four Gospels
- What is the other miracle?** The resurrection of Christ
- Obviously, the miracle here had a very strong appeal to the four Gospel writers
- What makes this incident so appealing?** Human nature
- Two names - Sea of Galilee and Sea of Tiberias

V 2 - **Why was there such a crowd?** People saw the “signs” of the healing of the sick

V 3 – “Mountain” = mountainous area = hill country

- Why did he speak from the hillside?** Probably so that he could speak better to the crowds, as in the Sermon on the Mount (amphitheater effect)

V 4 – **Why does John explain “Passover”?** The fourth Gospel was to all readers (not just Jews), to get them to believe

- When did the Passover begin?** Exodus
- The people on their way to Jerusalem

V 5-6 - On side of mountain, so he could see all the people

- What question did Jesus ask Philip?** Where to get food
- Why did Jesus ask Philip this question?** To test him (v 6)

V 7 – **Does Philip “pass” the test?** No, it looked like a hopeless situation to him

V 8 – **Which apostle spoke up next?** Andrew - "Simon Peter's brother"

- Peter has clearly become one of the leading apostles

V 9 – Interesting: Andrew had brought Peter to Christ, now Andrew was bringing this little boy to Christ

- Bread - probably like our crackers, and the fish were maybe sardines
- Do the disciples see a miracle coming?** No

V 10-11 – Jesus took charge

- 5000 men plus sat down on grass
- Jesus “gives thanks”
- We should also give thanks (with one exception: *Matt. 6.5* – when it might be ostentatious)
- Some have said that praying before meals is just an old tradition
- But not so – **Read 1 Timothy 4:1**
- All ate as much as they wanted
- Remember Elijah and the widow's oil and flour at Zarephath

V 12 – **What did they do after the meal?** Picked up the pieces
-**What was the lesson from v 12?** Nothing is to be wasted
-As Christians, we are not to be wasteful

V 13 – **How much was collected?** Twelve baskets of “crumbs”

V 14 – The fourth miracle of John
-Water to wine
-Healing of nobleman’s son
-Man at pool of Bethesda
-Feeding of 5000

V 15 – He was not ready to be made “King”

John 6.16-21

V 16 – **Which sea?** Sea of Galilee
-We have a much more detailed account in *Matthew* and *Mark*
-Mark’s account: Jesus wanted to be alone to pray

V 17 – They expected Jesus to join them (maybe walking on the shore)
-It was lonely without Jesus

V 18 – A storm came upon the lake

V 19 – Very hard work rowing a large boat in a storm
-Notice the shift to present tense (“historical present”)
-It was very vivid in the mind of John
-**What was their emotion?** Great fear
-**What could have caused this fear?** They were amazed at his power

V 20 – The voice of Jesus reassured them

V 21 – Maybe Jesus stopped the wind (that might account for getting to land so quickly)

John 6.22-25

V 22 – Jesus was gone – they could not figure out how he got across the lake, but they wanted to find Him

V 23 – Others were also searching for Jesus (maybe wanting more food)

V 24 – **Why did they seek Jesus at Capernaum?** He had stayed there in the home of Peter

V 25 – Great puzzlement over how he got there

John 6.26-34 – Long discourse (they probably kept interrupting)

V 26 – **Does Jesus answer their questions about how he got there?** No

-**Why?** He knew their motives

-**Had they been impressed with the significance of feeding the 5000?** No, just enjoyed the free food

V 27 – **How did Jesus rebuke them?** They needed to work for eternal life, not just their daily bread

-**Are we supposed to be interested in our jobs and getting food to eat, etc?** Yes, but it should not be our ultimate goal

-Our goal should be to inherit eternal life

V 28 – **What does this indicate about the crowd?** They were interested in doing better

-**"Tell us what to do to please God"**

V 29 – Answer: to believe (and all that involves) – Notice: it is a work to believe!

-Our denominational friends tell us that we are saved by faith, not works – their doctrine is refuted here

V 30 – Character of the Jews - **Read 1 Corinthians 1:22**

-**Had they seen any signs?** Yes, at least two: walking on water and the feeding of the 5000

-There is a difference between seeing and perceiving

-Just as today, we can show a person the truth, but he might say, "But I don't see it that way"

V 31 – They tried to compare Moses to Jesus

-**Was Moses' miracle greater?** No, it was food for 40 years for several millions of people

V 32 – **What were the two answers of Jesus?** Moses didn't do it, I (Jesus) gave you the manna, and now I give you eternal bread (eternal life)

-Remember the woman at the well – the living water of eternal life

V 33 – Jesus is that true bread

V 34 – Just like the woman at the well, "Let me have that water so I won't have to carry this water pot anymore..."

-**Do they know what Jesus is talking about?** No

John 6.35-40

V 35 – A majestic statement – first of 7 "I am" statements in *John* (#2 is *John 8.12*)
-**How is Jesus' bread different from manna of Moses?** His bread will last eternally
-We are in a famine without Christ.

V 36 – **Was there a problem with lack of evidence?** No, but a failure to accept the evidence

V 37 – **Who does the Father give to the Son?** All who are willing to believe (come and obey) the Son

-**Will any penitent believer be rejected?** No

-**Does this apply to serial killers?**

-We remember when Jeffrey Dahmer obeyed the gospel by being baptized for the forgiveness of his sins – he was forgiven of his sins and became a member of the Lord's church

-**Who in the New Testament was saved in the last few seconds of his life?** Thief on the cross

V 38 – Jesus was doing the will of the Father

V 39 – All saved people will be raised up on the "last day"

-**What is the reference to the "last day"?** The second coming of Jesus

V 40 – Those who believe will be saved

- Five miracles thus far

1. Water to wine

2. Nobleman's son

3. Man at Bethesda

4. Feeding the 5000

5. Walking on water

John 6.41-51

V 41 – **What is the reaction of the Jewish listeners?** Grumbling

-**Why?** He claimed to be deity

-They wanted to know if he was a greater prophet than Moses

-They were not expecting him to claim to be God

-He said he came "*out of heaven*"

V 42 – **Why did they not accept him?** They thought they knew his father and mother

-They didn't question their assumptions (known as "begging the question" in public speaking)

-They didn't consider that maybe they were mistaken

V 43 – Jesus: No need to grumble

V 44 – **Were all people drawn to Jesus?** Yes - **Read John 12:32**

V 45 – Very interesting quote from *Jeremiah 31* ("watershed of the Old Testament")

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

-**Meaning?** Under the New Testament, all people will have opportunity to obey the gospel

-Jesus then used the prophets to support his claims

V 46 – We can only understand God the Father by studying the life of God the Son

-**Why did Jesus know the Father?** He came from heaven

V 47 – Repeating material in previous discourse

V 48 – References back to v 35 – a simple, yet impressive statement

V 49 -50 – The contrast between manna in wilderness and Jesus' bread of life

V 51 – A restatement of the first "I am...."

John 6.52-58

V 52 – "Arguing" arguing among themselves how best to refute Jesus

-**What were they arguing about?** How could a person "eat" the flesh of Jesus

V 53 – Some think that this is a reference to Lord's Supper

-**So or not so?** Not so

-The Jews had no inkling the Lord's Supper would be started

-Out of tone with context (Jesus was not talking about the Lord's Supper)

V 54-56 - **How do we eat flesh and drink the blood of Jesus?** By being fully converted to Jesus (continued communion with Jesus)

-Today, when we say that a person who loves computers, we might say, "He eats that stuff up"

-**What does that mean?** He is totally obsessed with that area of life

V 57 – To "eat" Jesus is to have him live in us

-Remember John in *Revelation 10:9-10* (John was told to eat the little book)

-So we are to incorporate Christ into our lives

V 58 – **What is Jesus referring to?** Back to manna in the wilderness

-*Matthew 5:6 ...who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

John 6.59-65

V 59 – Where did the previous discourse take place? The synagogue in Capernaum

V 60 – Reaction of some of his disciples? Grumbling, "a hard-difficult saying"

- True, it is difficult to understand
- 2 *Peter 3:15-16* - Paul wrote difficult things
- Very possibly the Jews still objected to the deity of Christ

V 61 – Jesus knew they were grumbling

V 62 – He was saying, "If you grumble now, what will you say when you see Jesus returning to heaven?"

- This indicated that he was from heaven
- Where is Jesus today?** At the right hand of God on David's throne (*Hebrews 1:3, Acts 2:29-36*)

V 63 – Refers to the Holy Spirit (capitalized)

- But the "spirit" of life refers to the meaning of life
- We don't live on bread, but we live on the deeper meaning of life
- What gives our lives meaning?** Words of Jesus

V 64 – Some of his "disciples" did not believe

- Did Jesus' knowing who would betray him predestine humans?** Knowing and determining are two different things

V 65 – **Whom does God grant to come to Jesus?** *Acts 10:34*, all who fear God and do what is right - Also see *John 6:45*

John 6.66-71

V 66 – **What were some reasons the followers left Jesus?** Deity of Christ, no more value in being children of Moses, total dedication required

V 67 – **If Jesus could read the hearts of people, why did he ask this question?** So the apostles would reaffirm their faith (for their benefit)

- They had heard his claims, seen the miracles, and knew the commitment that he required

V 68 – **Is it surprising that Peter is the spokesman?** No

- We would have been surprised if anyone else had spoken up
- Notice his response: "*Lord*" – important title "*To whom shall we go*"
- Meaning: Once we "know" Jesus, nothing else can satisfy us
- Even those who fell away are never really happy again (after knowing the truth)
- Where else can we turn to for words of eternal life?**

V 69 – **What had the apostles done?** Believed and acknowledged Jesus as "Holy One of God" (indicates that He was deity in the flesh)

- See *Mark 1:24, Luke 4:34* – the demon possessed man used this title for Jesus

V 70 – Even with faithful apostles, Jesus knew that the human heart was still weak
-One of the twelve would betray Him

V 71 – John was writing later
-No one knew until the Last Supper that it was Judas who would betray Jesus (*John 13:26*)

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