

The Gospel of John: Light in the Darkness

The Feeding of the 5,000, Walking on Water, and I AM the Bread of Life; John 6

John 6:4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near. So Jesus, after raising His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread so that these people may eat?"

Jewish Feasts in John

The Feast of Passover, John 2

The Feast of Passover, John 2A feast of the Jews, John 5

The Feast of Passover, John 2A feast of the Jews, John 5Passover, John 6

The Feast of Passover, John 2A feast of the Jews, John 5Passover, John 6Feast of Tabernacles, John 7-10

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John 6:11-12 Jesus then took the loaves, and after giving thanks He distributed them to those who were reclining; likewise also of the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces so that nothing will be lost."

John 6:13-14 So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with pieces from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Seven signs

Water to wine, John 2

Water to wine, John 2Healing of the nobleman's son, John 4

Water to wine, John 2Healing of the nobleman's son, John 4Healing of the paralyzed man, John 5

Water to wine, John 2Healing of the nobleman's son, John 4Healing of the paralyzed man, John 5Feeding 5,000, John 6

Water to wine, John 2 Healing of the nobleman's son, John 4 Healing of the paralyzed man, John 5 Feeding 5,000, John 6 Walking on water, John 6

Water to wine, John 2 Healing of the nobleman's son, John 4 Healing of the paralyzed man, John 5 Feeding 5,000, John 6 Walking on water, John 6 Healing of the man born blind, John 9

Water to wine, John 2 Healing of the nobleman's son, John 4 Healing of the paralyzed man, John 5 Feeding 5,000, John 6 Walking on water, John 6 Healing of the man born blind, John 9 Raising of Lazarus, John 11

Communicated in the Miracle 1. The compassion of Jesus for all people

Matthew 14:13-14 Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard about this, they followed Him on foot from the cities. When He came ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Communicated in the Miracle 1. The compassion of Jesus for all people 2. The provision of Jesus for His followers

Matthew 16:5-7 And the disciples came to the other side of the sea, but they had forgotten to bring any bread. And Jesus said to them, "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." They began to discuss this among themselves, saying, "He said that because we did not bring any bread."

Matthew 16:8-10 But Jesus, aware of this, said, "You men of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet understand nor remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets you picked up? Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many large baskets you picked up?"

Matthew 16:11-12 How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you about bread? But beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

As with all signs in John, the sign either immediately proceeds or immediately follows a significant revelation of who Jesus Christ is and what He came to accomplish.

John 6:22-23 The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there except one, and that Jesus had not gotten into the boat with His disciples, but that His disciples had departed alone. Other small boats came from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

John 6:24-25 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats and came to Capernaum, looking for Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

John 6:26-27 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate some of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

John 6:28-29 Therefore they said to Him, "What are we to do, so that we may accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

John 6:30-31 So they said to Him, "What then are You doing as a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work are You performing? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'"

John 6:32-33 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world."

John 6:34-35 Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me will not be hungry, and the one who believes in Me will never be thirsty."

This event leads to Jesus is the Bread of Life. He doesn't just offer Bread of Life. He is the Bread of Life. Receiving Jesus as He really is transforms a person, changing the emotions, will, desires, priorities, and decisions.

The main point of the entire event is not Jesus can feed 5000 people with some bread and fish. The main point is that since Jesus can feed 5,000, He validates His claims that He is the Son of God, the Savior of the World and therefore, He deserves my absolute loyalty.

Picture from New Hampshire

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