

*Feeding the 5000 & Walking on Water: John 6:1–21*  
*Jaunting thru John: Message 16*

Grace Chapel

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**INTRODUCTION**

**REVIEW**

<b>PURPOSE STATEMENT (John 20:30–31)</b> 8 signs so readers may live eternally (by believing) that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son.
<b>PROLOGUE (John 1:1–18)</b> Jesus Christ, a member of the Trinity, created the universe. John the Baptist testified about Him, so all might believe in Christ, but when He came to His own people, most rejected Him, but all who believe in Him become God’s children thru faith in Him (not thru physical birth).
<b>EARLY MINISTRY (John 1:19–4:54)</b> <b>THE FIRST DISCIPLES (John 1:19–51)</b> John the Baptist pointed all to Christ, so some of John’s disciples followed Jesus & believed in Him. <b>FIRST SIGN WITNESSED BY JOHN (John 2:1–11)</b> When Jesus turned water into wine (His first Galilean sign), His disciples believed in Him. <b>MINISTRY IN JUDEA AT PASSOVER (John 2:13–3:36)</b> Many (including Nicodemus) believed in Jesus at the Passover feast because of the miracles Jesus performed, but Jesus cryptically predicted His death & resurrection as the great sign proving that He is the Messiah, & then He went into the Judean countryside to make disciples of the new believers. <b>THE SAMARITAN WOMAN: John 4:1–26</b> Jesus offered living water to a Samaritan woman, who questioned His ability to quench thirst eternally, but then asked Him if He were the Christ when He told her all things about herself. <b>MINISTRY IN SYCHAR: 4:27–42</b> She persuaded men in town to see if Jesus might be the Messiah, as the disciples focused on food, so Jesus told them that the fields are ready for harvest & He allowed them to join in reaping (though they failed to sow); a ministry that led many Samaritans to believe in Christ <b>MINISTRY IN GALILEE 4:43–45</b> Jesus went to Galilee, because He had already testified that no prophet is a celebrity in his hometown; Galileans welcomed Him after some saw Jesus’ signs in Jerusalem. <b>HEALING THE ROYAL OFFICIAL’S SON: 4:46–54</b> A royal official asked Jesus to heal his dying son, Jesus noted the essential role of signs for Jews; the father urged Jesus to come to Capernaum; Jesus said, “Your son lives,” which he believed; as he went home, his servants said, “Your son lives.” He & his household believed
<b>CONTROVERSY SECTION: John 5–12</b> <b>HEALING THE LAME MAN: 5:1–15</b> Jesus told a lame man who awaited an angelic healing to pick up his bedroll & walk. Officials scolded him for carrying his bedroll on the Sabbath & sought to confront the one who healed him.
<b>HEALING THE LAME MAN: 5:16–23</b> When Judeans sought to kill Jesus for breaking the Sabbath & claiming equality with God, He said that He only does what the Father does & He will amaze them with greater works (even raising the dead) & judging the world.
<b>HONORING THE FATHER BY HONORING THE SON: 5:24–30</b> Jesus wants to give His opponents life (which He will do, if they believe), but He will judge (and condemn) them as unworthy of life (if they do not believe in Him) (5:24–30)
<b>TWO, THREE, AND MORE WITNESSES: 5:31–47</b> Jesus, the impartial Judge at the GWT, cannot also serve as accuser at GWT; He could call on John the Baptist as a valid witness, but will not, because He does not receive man’s testimony; so Jesus calls on His works as a greater witness, He also calls on the Father, Scripture (that testifies of Him), and Moses as witnesses who will accuse these, who have rejected Christ’s words

## **NEW EXPOSITION: Feeding the 5000 (6:1–14) and Walking on Water (6:15–21)**

### **FEEDING THE 5000 (6:1–14)**

**(Six months) after healing the lame man in Jerusalem (at the Feast of Tabernacles), Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (to Bethsaida) (6:1)**

This is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels:

Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:32–44; Luke 9:10b–17; John 6:1–14

Our exposition is from John, but the other accounts help with the setting.

October 32 Tabernacles (cf. 5:1)	November 32	December 32	January 33	February 33	March 33	April 33 Passover (cf. 6:4)
<i>After these things [the healing in John 5]</i>						

### ***Chronology:***

John 6 occurs about six months after chapter 5 (see chart above)

John 6:10 tells us that there was much grass. Mk 6:39 says the grass was green (springtime)

It was already approaching sunset before Jesus fed the people (Mt 14:15; Mk 6:35; Lk 9:12)

### ***Location:***

John 6:23 locates the sign near the port at Tiberias. Boat owners went there & got their boats.

Luke 9:10b identifies the location as within the jurisdiction of the city of Bethsaida

The site is on the western shore (despite what the commentaries say)

Matthew 14:13 and Mark 6:32 identify the location as a deserted place

Why did Jesus desire seclusion? Mt 14:1ff.; Mk 6:14ff.; Lk 9:7ff.

John 6:3 & 15 speaks of the location as a mountain (a high hill): where Jesus sought seclusion

The sign occurred at a place relatively low on the hill, because He went higher in 6:15

Jesus went by boat from Capernaum to Bethsaida; since the 12 returned to Capernaum (6:17)

**Around Passover, a great crowd on shore followed Jesus to the place where He went ashore (around Bethsaida) and up the hillside (6:2–4)**

**Jesus asked Philip (a resident of Bethsaida) where to buy food for all the people, to give him an opportunity to anticipate a Messianic sign (6:5–6)**

**Philip said that 8 months' wages could only buy a mouthful of bread for each one (6:7)**

A denarius was a day's wage for a common laborer

200 working days  $\approx$  33 (six-day) weeks  $\approx$  8 months wages

In 8 months (at 3 meals per day)  $\approx$  750 meals for one person.

There are 5,000 men (plus women & children—per Matthew 14:21)  $\approx$  20,000 people

Philip concludes that it is impossible to satisfy all of the people

**Andrew found a lad with 5 barley loaves & 2 fish (appetizers): A mere pittance (6:8–9)**

The boy with the food may have brought it for himself or for selling to others

Mt, Mk, & Lk say loaves. John says barley loaves (This was poor-man's bread)

These were probably small loaves. (cf. Lk 11<sup>5</sup> And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves.'").

Mt, Mk, & Lk say *fishes*, but John says *small appetizer* (translated *little fishes*)

These were probably dried or pickled *lake sardines*

**Jesus told His disciples to seat the people: They sat on the grass in groups of 50 (6:10)**

**Jesus gave thanks and began breaking bread the disciples gave everyone as much bread and fish as each wanted (6:11)**

**After everyone was satisfied, Jesus sent each of the 12 with a basket, which they filled with leftover crumbs (6:12–13)**

**The sign caused people to say that Jesus is the coming Prophet (6:14)**

Remember: Jesus had performed other signs before this group.

Deuteronomy 18<sup>15</sup> **The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst**, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, <sup>6</sup> according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, "Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die."

### **WALKING ON WATER (6:15–21)**

**Jesus withdrew higher onto the mountain, when He perceived that people were ready to forcibly make Him king (6:15)**

Galileans were ready to run out in front of the Father's timetable, while the Judean leadership had the opposite problem (they saw nothing special in Jesus). Make no mistake, both of these responses were problematic.

**At nightfall the 12 stopped filling baskets w/ crumbs & started for Capernaum, but Jesus was still on the hillside and did not join the 12 (6:16–17)**

**A gale stirred up the water as they were on the sea (6:18)**

(The sea of Galilee is shallow, so storms often create violent waves)

**After the 12 had rowed 3–4 miles in the storm, Jesus frightened them as He came walking on the sea toward them (6:19)**

**He calmed them by saying, "It is I, don't be afraid." (6:20)**

**The 12 welcomed Him into the boat and immediately arrived at their destination (6:21)**

Although the crowds did not see Jesus walk on water, John 6:22*ff.* shows that they became aware of it.

### **CONCLUSION**

The purpose statement tells us that John included signs to cause unbelievers to have life through believing Jesus Christ and His promise of life. The signs Jesus did on that April day in 32 were also designed to cause believers to trust Him. His disciples had no idea how severely they would be tested the very next day. Jesus provided food and protection supernaturally on that day, precisely because He is the lifegiving Messiah.

## MATTHEW 14

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

<sup>14</sup> & when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; & He was moved w/ compassion for them, & healed their sick. <sup>15</sup> When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, & the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages & buy themselves food."

<sup>16</sup> But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup> & they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves & two fish." <sup>18</sup> He said, "Bring them here to Me." <sup>19</sup> Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. & He took the five loaves & the two fish, & looking up to heaven, He blessed & broke & gave the loaves to the disciples; & the disciples gave to the multitudes. <sup>20</sup> So they all ate & were filled, & they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. <sup>21</sup> Now those who had eaten were about 5000 men, besides women & children.

## MARK 6

<sup>32</sup> So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves. <sup>33</sup> But the multitudes saw them departing, & many knew Him & ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them & came together to Him.

<sup>34</sup> & Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude & was moved w/ compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup> When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him & said, "This is a deserted place, & already the hour is late. <sup>36</sup> Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country & villages & buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat." <sup>37</sup> But He answered & said to them, "You give them something to eat." & they said to Him, "Shall we go & buy 200 denarii worth of bread & give them something to eat?" <sup>38</sup> But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go & see." & when they found out they said, "five, & two fish."

<sup>39</sup> Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds & in fifties. <sup>41</sup> & when He had taken the five loaves & the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed & broke the loaves, & gave them to His disciples to set before them; & the two fish He divided among them all. <sup>42</sup> So they all ate & were filled. <sup>43</sup> & they took up twelve baskets full of fragments & of the fish. <sup>44</sup> Now those who had eaten the loaves were about 5000 men.

## LUKE 9

<sup>106</sup> Then He took them & went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.

<sup>11</sup> But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; & He received them & spoke to them about the kingdom of God, & healed those who had need of healing. <sup>12</sup> When the day began to wear away, the twelve came & said to Him, "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns & country, & lodge & get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here." <sup>13</sup> But He said to them, "You give them something to eat." & they said, "We have no more than five loaves & two fish, unless we go & buy food for all these people." <sup>14</sup> For there were about 5000 men. Then He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty." <sup>15</sup> & they did so, & made them all sit down. <sup>16</sup> Then He took the five loaves & the two fish, & looking up to heaven, He blessed & broke them, & gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. <sup>17</sup> So they all ate & were filled, & twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.

## JOHN 6

<sup>1</sup> After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.

<sup>2</sup> Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. <sup>3</sup> & Jesus went up on the mountain, & there He sat w/ His disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, & seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" <sup>6</sup> But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered Him, "200 denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." <sup>8</sup> One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, <sup>9</sup> "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves & two ~~small~~ fish [fish] appetizers, but what are they among so many?"

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about 5000. <sup>11</sup> & Jesus took the loaves, & when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, & the disciples to those sitting down; & likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost."

<sup>13</sup> Therefore they gathered them up, & filled twelve baskets w/ the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."