

The Gospel of John Pt. 10

John 6:1-40

Big Idea

- Jesus continues to give miraculous signs of His deity and shows that He is essential to life.

Jesus' Miracles in John's Gospel

1. Miracle at Cana (Jn. 2:1-10)
2. Healing the nobleman's son (Jn. 4:46-54)
3. Healing the paralytic (Jn 5:1-9)
4. Feeding the 5000 (Jn. 6:1-14)
5. Walking on Water (Jn. 6:15-21)
6. Healing man born blind (Jn. 9:1-12)
7. Raising Lazarus (Jn. 11)

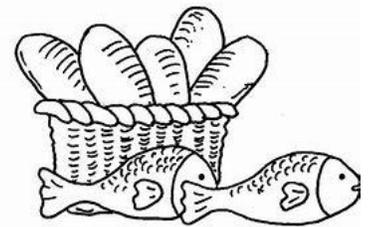
Exposition – John 6:1-40

As we've already seen, John uses the miracles of Jesus to convince his readers that Jesus had divine powers and was therefore, the Savior.

A large period of time passes between chapter 5 and chapter 6. John alludes to this with "After these things...". If the feast mentioned in John 5:1 is the Feast of Tabernacles, then at least 6 months passed (October to April). If the feast mentioned is the Passover then a year passed between chapters (See also 6:4). Chapter 5 took place in the south around Jerusalem, now Jesus and His disciples have travelled north to their home base of Galilee.

1. The Feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1-14)

- (V.1-14) – This is the fourth sign of Jesus' ministry
 - (V2) – "A very large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs..." Many who followed didn't do so out of faith, but out of curiosity for the miracles which He performed. But, Jesus still had compassion on them. He healed them and fed them...
 - (V5) – Jesus asks Philip the question about where to buy bread so as to provoke the opportunity for the disciples to participate in the ministry. Jesus knew the solution to the problem, but He becomes a coach to Philip and the others.
 - (V7) – In these times, a denarii was a days wage. Therefore, 200 denarii would have been eight months wages, but would have still not been enough. A miraculous work is needful.
 - (V10) – The number of men was 5000. If women and children would have been included in the count it would have exceeded 20,000.
 - (V13) – The leftovers show God's ability to provide all that we need and more than we need. He is not limited by number.
 - (V14) – The Prophet is from Deuteronomy 18:15. The fact that the acclamation of the crowd comes immediately after Jesus healed and fed them reveals that they desired a messiah that met physical needs rather than their spiritual needs. They wanted an earthly, political messiah who could free them from Rome. John MacArthur says, "Their reaction typifies many who want a "Christ" that makes no demands of them, but of whom they can make their selfish personal requests."



2. Walking on Water (John 6:15-21)

- (V15-21) – This is the fifth sign of Jesus' ministry
 - (V15) – This is an addition to what Matthew and Luke share about this event. Jesus is omniscient and therefore knows the intentions of people. Jesus withdrew from the crowds because He knew they were about to



force Him into a place of Kingship that would have interfered with the will of God. This is a proof-text for our understanding on God's perfect will vs. God's permissive will as well as the freedoms and liberties that God has extended to people.

- (V16-21) – The Sea of Galilee is surrounded by cliff faces. When rushing winds can form quickly when heat rises off of the water and is replaced by wind rushing down the cliff faces. Some believe that the boat was in a somewhat narrow inlet so crossing over was not a long journey in this case. Therefore, verse 21 is not necessarily revealing a supernatural passage of distance, but just that by the time Jesus got in the boat, they had rowed across the narrow area of sea. However, there is disagreement on this idea.

3. Jesus is the Bread of Life (V.22-40)

- (V22-40) – Jesus uses the bread in the previous miracle as a metaphor for His work in our lives.
 - (V22-25) – Tells of how the crowd realized that Jesus had left the area of the feeding of the 5000 so they crossed over the sea. Upon arrival they find Jesus and remark that He had not gotten into the boat with His disciples and wondered how He had crossed over.
 - (V26-33) – Jesus corrects their understanding of what their greatest need is.
 1. (V26) -- "...because you ate" – they were motivated by physical desires
 2. (V27) -- "do not work for food which perishes" – there way satisfied some needs in the moment, but were only temporary"
 3. (V29) – Jesus shifts their emphasis from physical to faith. Evidently they misunderstood Jesus' prohibition "do not work"
 4. (V30-33) – The crowd is essentially asking Jesus to do a bigger work than Moses did when he fed the entire nation of Israel. So, Jesus corrects them. He says, "... it is not Moses who gives you the true bread out of heaven." We could paraphrase, "Moses only fed your stomachs. God, the Father, is giving you bread that gives life greater than mere food. AND, He gives it to the whole world, not just Israel."
 - (V34-40) – Lord, give us this bread!
 1. (V34-35) – The people ask for Jesus to give them the bread that truly gives life. But, they don't seem to understand that Jesus is that Bread. So, Jesus says, "I am the bread of life"
 2. (V36-40) – Jesus dovetails additional teaching to what was about the possibility of the people jeopardizing the will of God when Jesus eluded them after the Feeding of the 5000.
 - Man has liberties and free will, but God is sovereign. We are not robots, but God's ultimate will is sure to come to pass. GOD IS SOVEREIGN!
 - Here are a list of doctrinal truths that flow from these verses
 - (V37) – "All that the Father gives Me..." – salvation is a work of the Spirit, upon the Father's will
 - (V38) – Jesus does the will of the Father who sent Him
 - (V39) – Jesus reliably does everything the Father charges Him with. All who believe are secure in Christ.
 - (V40) – Salvation comes by faith and Jesus does the rapturing.

