

COMMENTARY

Gospel of John Chapter 6:

vs. 1-15

During this point of Jesus' ministry, He was around the area of the Sea of Galilee in the mountains that surrounded the Sea. 5,000 people are gathered to see Jesus. Jesus asks Philip, "Where are we going to buy bread for these people to eat?". Jesus already knows how He is going to use the situation to strengthen His disciples' faith.

Philip found a lad with 5 loaves and 2 fishes. The people were told to sit down. Jesus then gave thanks for the food. The people, in groups of fifties, were then fed by the disciples. When everyone had eaten, 12 baskets of food were left over which could represent 1 for each disciple. The multitude likened Jesus to Moses after the miracle. He wasn't considered quite as good since Moses had fed them for 40 years and this was just 1 meal. The people did, however, want to make Jesus, their king.

Jesus then told His disciples to send the multitude away. He did not want to be made king and become a political power on earth. Jesus went off by Himself into the hills to pray.

vs. 16-24

That night, the disciples put out to sea before Jesus returned. When they were 3 to 3½ miles from shore a storm had arisen and a figure was approaching them on the water. The figure spoke and told them not to be afraid, for it was Jesus. Peter reacted by asking Jesus that if it was really Him, to command him to come out on the water and join Him. Peter went out and started walking on the water and stared straight at Christ. Then, he took his eyes off of Jesus and he began to sink. He cried out to Jesus to save him, and Jesus did. When Jesus got in the boat, they arrived immediately at their destination.

vs. 25-59

Two things that Jesus wanted to get across when He gave His sermon on the Bread of Life, was that He was the bread and that His kingdom, would be a spiritual one. The Jews' idea of the Messianic kingdom, was a temporal, rich, powerful, and one where their needs would be provided for. This would not be the case.

God wanted His people to believe on the one whom He had sent and then to bring others into that kingdom. The Jews, they wanted signs and power and provision, like the time in the wilderness under Moses. Jesus told them that it was not Moses that provided for their ancestors, but God working through him. Jesus told them further, that, that which God was now offering was a superior type of bread and would give them life. Jesus proclaimed, that He was that bread from God. The Jews quickly responded by saying that this was only the son of Joseph. Jesus declared that He had come down out of heaven to draw us to Himself.

In the second part of His sermon, Jesus emphasized His character and how it was necessary for Him to give His life for a sacrifice. This He shared, so as to separate those who sought for earthly bread and those who sought for the spiritual bread. The spiritual bread and blood through serving Him and taking part in communion and remembering His sacrifice.

vs. 60-71

When Jesus had finished preaching, the people left because He wouldn't provide them with the physical bread. Jesus asked His disciples if they also would go away. Peter replied, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus then prophesied concerning His betrayal, His death and His resurrection.

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 6:

1. How much, did Philip say it would cost to buy enough bread?
2. What food was found?
3. How much was left over by the 5000 people?
4. What did the disciples do when evening came?
5. What happened when they were 3 to 3½ miles away?
6. What did the crowd do when they realized Jesus and His disciples were not there?
7. Why did Jesus say the people were looking for Him?
8. What is the will of God according to verses 39 and 40?
9. What did Jesus say, people must do to have life in them according to verse 53?
10. What happened when Jesus told them that no one can come unless the Father enables them?
11. What was Peter's response when asked if they would leave also?
12. Which one of Jesus disciples was a devil and why?

BONUS:

1. What lessons are to be learned from the feeding of the 5000?
2. What point(s), do you think, Jesus was trying to make in verses 25-59?
3. Are people today, guilty of deserting their Lord? Explain.