

## **JESUS LOSES THE CROWD**

### **John 6:1-35 (ESV)**

#### **Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

**6** After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. **2** And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. **3** Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. **4** Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. **5** Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" **6** He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. **7** Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." **8** One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, **9** "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" **10** Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. **11** Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." **13** So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. **14** When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

**15** Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

#### **Jesus Walks on Water**

**16** When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, **17** got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. **18** The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. **19** When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. **20** But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." **21** Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

#### **I Am the Bread of Life**

**22** On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. **23** Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. **24** So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

**25** When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" **26** Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. **27** Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." **28** Then they said to him, "What

must we do, to be doing the works of God?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" <sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " <sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup> They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

### **DISCUSSION:**

1. John takes care to mention that it was almost time for the Passover. Why?
2. Jesus obviously knew what he was about to do. Why do you think he asked his disciples for their advice?
3. Jesus has the disciples participate in the miraculous feeding. Why do you think He does that? How do you think they felt: a) as he said the blessing? b) as they were picking up the leftovers?
4. What do you learn about the people from their question in 6:28? How are we the same?
5. What is the relationship between work and faith in John 6:27-29? Compare this passage with Eph 2:4-10 and James 2:14-26.
6. As long as the people came to Jesus only to get their physical needs met he knew their *deepest* needs would go unmet. What does Jesus want them to focus on (v. 27, 29)?
7. What 's the difference in loving Jesus for who He is versus loving him for what He can give us?
8. How can our immediate needs or worries blind us from seeing our deeper spiritual needs?
9. John contrasted Jesus with the bread the Jews sought: manna and the Law. What kinds of "bread" do modern people use to mistakenly satisfy their hunger?