

3) Jesus Delivers His Disciples Across Water

- A) The people witness the awesome miracle of provision and selfishly want to "force" Jesus into monarchical leadership (6:15). Jesus slips away alone (!), leaving His disciples (6:16).

- B) The disciples get into their boat to set out for Capernaum (perhaps a meeting place with Jesus? -- 6:17), but there is a strong wind blowing in from the North which is preventing their progress (6:18-19).

- C) After rowing for 3-4 miles, *they see Jesus walking on the water toward them* (6:19)! The disciples freak out, since this is rather unusual. Jesus sees/senses their fear, assures them of who He is, and calls on them to "not be afraid" (6:20).

- D) When the disciples "receive" Jesus into the boat, the boat "immediately" arrives at the shoreline in Capernaum, delivered intact through the storm (6:21).

- E) The people (the 5,000+), realize that Jesus wasn't in the boat when it left, but was in the boat when it arrived at Capernaum (6:22-25). They can't figure out how Jesus got from one place to the other so quickly, since He wasn't in the boat.

- F) This miracle perplexes the people and draws them into further conversation with Jesus as to why He left them before, and to what motivates them to follow Him (6:26ff).

Bread & Water

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 10th, 2004 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**FOR IF YOU BELIEVED MOSES,
YOU WOULD BELIEVE ME, FOR
HE WROTE ABOUT ME. BUT
IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE HIS
WRITINGS, HOW WILL YOU
BELIEVE MY WORDS?
~JOHN 5:46-47 (NASB)**

1) Deliverance In The Desert

- A) At the end of the book of Genesis, God's "Chosen People" (Israelites) are safe and secure under the leadership of Joseph and the security of the Egyptian empire (Hyskos/Semitic Pharaoh Amenophis II -- Exodus 47:1-12).

- B) Joseph and his family die from old age (Exodus 1:6), but the Israelites become "fruitful and multiply" and enjoy great prosperity (Exodus 1:7). Note the transition of the Israelites being the "sons of Israel" (lit., Jacob), to the "people of the sons of Israel" (i.e. a nation -- Exodus 1:7-9).

- C) The new Pharaoh (Ahmose, founder of the 18th Dynasty).

Extremely nationalistic and enemy of the Hyskos Dynasty) fears/hates the Israelites because they might join "with those who hate us" (Exodus 1:10). Ahmose puts the entire nation of Israel into forced labor and slavery, but God remembers His people and multiplies them (Exodus 1:10-22).

- D) Moses is born and miraculously delivered from death. Moses grows up in Pharaoh's household (Exodus 2:1-10). When Moses is around 80 years old, he leads the Israelites out of their Egyptian (Amenhotep II) oppression (Exodus 3-12:41).
- E) God delivers the Israelites from Egypt through 10 plagues which strike to the heart of the Egyptian deity system (Exodus 7:14-11:10, 12:29-32). God sends the people out into the desert of Sinai, to the edge of the "Sea of Reeds" (Exodus 13:18).
- F) The Israelites freak out (Exodus 14:10-12) because they see Pharaoh and his army chasing them (603,550 men (only) -- Exodus 38:26) in the desert. Moses tells the people to trust God and shut up (Exodus 14:13-14). Moses raises his staff (at God's command) and parts the Sea of Reeds and Israel is delivered from the Egyptian army (Exodus 14:15-31).
- G) The Israelites run out of food in the desert and freak out (Exodus 16:1-3). Moses rebukes the people (Exodus 16:8-12) and God miraculously provides food for the people (Exodus 16:13-21).

- H) Specifically, God provides "Manna" each morning for the people, a wafer-like substance which is like dew on the ground in the morning (Exodus 16:14-15) . It can be collected each day for eating, and always provided just the right amount of food for each family (Exodus 16:17-18).

2) Jesus Delivers Food To 5,000

- A) Jesus, ministering somewhere on the Sea of Galilee (John 6:1), is being followed by a large crowd (6:2) seeking signs. The crowd probably has a nationalistic zeal hoping for a militaristic Messiah (6:15).
- B) It is near Passover (6:4).
- C) The people are hungry, so Jesus asks His disciples (in a test) where they will get food for the huge crowd (6:5-7). Philip (from nearby Bethsaida) replies that the amount of money required (NIV renders this well as "eight months wages") wouldn't be enough (6:7)!
- D) Andrew, perhaps sensing what Jesus is looking for, mentions that there is a kid here with a couple of fish and some barley pita bread (6:8-9).
- E) Jesus has the people sit down, He gives thanks for the food, and He has the disciples pass out food (from the original five loaves and two fishes) *for all 5,000 men and those who were with them* (6:11-12). There is extraordinary abundance left over, which they collect for the people (6:12-13).

Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) The miracles of Jesus in John 6 (Feeding the 5,000, Walking on Water), speak to a deeper need all people have. There are things in this world that are overwhelming and outside of our control, but Jesus can handle even the most radical situations. Share with your group at least one moment in your life (in the past) that you were overwhelmed and God met your needs in an unexpected way.

- B) Looking back can be encouraging (hindsight is always 20/20), but what most of us really need is for God to meet our *current* needs. Share with your group at least one area of your life where you really need God to “show up.” Share about something in your life where you feel like the odds are stacked against you, and you can’t see how it will work out.

- C) God rarely works things out in the way we want Him to (frustrating, isn’t it?). He almost always (in the Bible) has some remarkable and extraordinary way of showing who He is to those who bother to watch for Him. What do we do (what can we do) with such an unpredictable God?

- D) Let’s face it, God isn’t always going to do things the way we wish He would. How do we handle our disappointment with God? Is it OK to be disappointed with God?

- E) Often, following Jesus is more about having our hearts in the right place than ‘getting the results’ we think God should provide for us. Following Jesus begins with faith and is sustained by faith. Are there areas of your own “walk of faith” with Jesus where “He must increase, I must decrease?” Share these tender areas of life with your small group and spend some time in prayer together, trusting that Jesus will not do you wrong and that we will all learn that His “grace is sufficient” (2nd Corinthians 12:9-10) for all of our needs.

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