

The Gospel of St. John

John 6:1-15

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- Matthew 14:13-21
- Mark 6:32-44
- Luke 9:10-17
- John 6:1-15
- What do we see in common in all 4 accounts?
- What do we see that's different?
- What stands out in particular to you and why?

Verses 1-4:

- “After these things...” Last sitting at pool of Bethesda. Could be 6-12 months later depending on feast of Ch. 5.
- This miracle and walking on water occur in all 4 Gospels.
- John doesn't focus much on Jesus' ministry in Galilee.
- Jesus and the apostles needed some rest time. They each had just finished exhausting preaching missions and ...

Verses 1-4 (cont'd):

- John the Baptist had just been beheaded (Matt 14:1-12). They needed time alone.
- Note John's use of the calendar and geography as usual.
- People were pilgrims on the way to Passover.
- Mass of people came because of the "miraculous signs". Not motivated by faith, repentance, or love.
- They could accept his works, but not his words. Sound familiar?

Verses 1-4 (cont'd):

- Even with their superficial motive, Christ still had mercy on them.

Verses 5-9:

- Time for the apostles' mid-term exam!
 - Philip gets an “F”. Andrew gets a “D-”.
- Does God test us today? Jesus asks Philip a trick question! (example)
- Have you ever face a predicament where you could find no solution in the normal resources of life? And how did you respond?

Verses 5-9 (cont'd):

- God forgive us for the Philip in all of us! What do we do? Form committees, organize, create programs, set goals, understand market dynamics and problem parameters, etc.
- All God wants is what we have and are right now. Begin where you are and work with what you've got! We don't stagnate, but we don't fret!
- Philip answers without reckoning on any of the resources of God.

Verses 5-9 (cont'd):

- Andrew does little better with his answer.
(Andrew the patron saint of Scotland)
- Philip and Andrew's answers showed that they and all the 12 failed the test of faith. No one responded affirming the power of Jesus - even after all they had seen.

Verses 10-13:

- Notice the grass - Psa 23, shepherd, etc.
- Also notice, no "razamatazz". Jesus gave thanks and handed out the food. (image)

Verses 10-13 (cont'd):

- 5,000 men it states → 10 to 20,000 total. Lots of serving for 12. The apostles faith may have failed, but their obedience did not. God used the weak to fulfill his purposes and plans.
- They had “as much as they wanted” and “they were filled”. No half-hearted miracle this.
- Then in line with God’s orderliness, our Lord commanded the disciples to clean up - police the area. Amazingly, Christ provided enough for lunch the next day. 12 baskets=12 apostles.

Verses 10-13 (cont'd):

- A Basket was normal Jewish man apparel and resemble a creel-like basket: like a purse for women today.
- Miracle of sharing?
 - They were told “Go look!”
- Miracle of being full of the Lord’s teaching?
 - What’s in the baskets?

Verses 14-15:

- Astonished by this sign, the people harken to Moses and manna God provided in the wilderness.
- And they may have thought of Deut 18:15-19. Could this be *the* Prophet? Is this Messiah?
- Messiah was to be a conquering king and a suffering servant.
- Jesus healed them and filled their bellies. They saw what they really wanted, a king to meet their physical needs and free them from the Roman yoke.

Verses 14-15:

- We are no different with our politicians today... seen some of the latest campaign commercials? “Who’s gonna take care of *me*?”
- We, like this crowd, often want God to work according to our plans and programs. We even get mad with God if he doesn’t come through for us.
- This is not our proper relationship with our Creator. Jesus does not acquiesce to our demands, whims, or fancies. We cannot manipulate God. Remind you of anyone?

Verses 14-15:

- We are not our own. We have no rights to ourselves: 1 Cor. 6:19-20.
- Jesus is looking for those who mourn over their sin, repent, and acknowledge him as sovereign Lord of their life.

5 Points to Consider from These Verses:

1. Jesus' omnipotence and omniscience clearly demonstrate his deity. What a tremendous miracle this is. Luke 7:20-22; John 14:11.
2. When God is going to do something, apparent lack of means is not an obstacle. We need to be looking for God at work and join him and know his will.
3. Just as always we see that God is compassionate and wants to provide for us. Even this sign was given like the OT feeding with manna - consistent compassion.

5 Points (cont'd):

4. Even those that physically walked side-by-side with our Lord struggled in their tests of faith. It is a huge mental leap to be able to declare, “that *man* there is God.”
5. People (us) are focused on the temporal things; we just want food and health. Look at our elections and our prayers (or should I say organ recitals). We want a benevolent and providing king or government to take care of us.

After thought...

- What is God's will for you? I can tell you one: 1 Thess 4:3-5 and Rom. 8:28-30.
- God willed to feed these people. It is God's will for you to be holy. Do you think he can do it?