

John 6:1-29 The Fourth and Fifth Signs

Between John 5:47 and John 6:1 many events in the life of Jesus that are recorded in the Synoptics are omitted. All four gospels record the feeding of the 5,000 but John omits most of: Matthew 5-14, Mark 2-6, Luke 6-9.

Verses 1-4

Tiberias – A city founded in A.D. 20 by Herod Antipas located on the northeast coast of the Sea of Galilee.

The signs – Although John chooses seven specific signs, Jesus did many other miracles.

On the mountain...with His disciples –

Luke 6 informs us that the disciples had just returned from their mission throughout the towns of Galilee. Also John the Baptist was beheaded by Herod during this time.

The Passover...was at hand –

This is John's second reference to the Passover. This is probably two years after the first cleansing of the temple in John 2. The Passover is probably mentioned because of the coming reference to the Bread of Life.

Verses 5-15 The fourth sign – Feeding of the 5,000

Two hundred denarii – The equivalent of eight month's wages.

The Prophet – Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Some Applications

Four solutions to the problem:

1. Send them away - Matthew 14:15
2. Raise some money – Philip quickly assessed the cost.
3. Look at what we do have – Andrew brought the lad to Jesus.
4. Let Jesus handle the problem!

Whenever there is a need give all that you have to Jesus and let Him do the rest.

Verse 11 & 23 – Twice John mentions that Jesus gave thanks.

He reminded the people that God is the source of all good and needful gifts. Instead of complaining about what we do not have, we should be thankful to God for what we do have.

The Good Shepherd provides –

Verse 10 – *Much grass*

Psalm 23:2, “*He makes me lie down in green pastures...*”

Verse 12 – *They were filled*

Psalm 23:5, “*Thou dost prepare a table before me...*”

They were intending to come and take Him by force, to make

Him king... The people thought Jesus was the Prophet and wanted Him to establish the promised kingdom.

Verses 16-21 The Fifth Sign – Jesus walking on water.

Some Applications

Sometimes we are caught in a storm because of disobedience. Jonah is an example. Sometimes we are caught in a storm because of obedience. In both cases we must trust Jesus!

Verse 21 – *The boat was at land*

Psalm 23:2 – *He leads me beside quite waters.*

Verses 22-29 The Bread of Life Discourse

The previous signs were given so that Jesus could explain to people who He was. His ministry was always of *grace* and *truth*. Graciously he fed the 5,000. Now in truth He gives them the Word of God. This discourse is a dialogue between Christ and the people, especially the religious leaders.

There are four responses of the crowd to the Bread of Life discourse:

1. Seeking – verses 22-40
2. Murmuring – verses 41-51
3. Striving – 52-59
4. Departing – 60-71

Seeking Jesus - Verses 22-25

The multitude realized that Jesus had departed for Capernaum but could not understand how he arrived. John includes this section to document that Jesus did walk across the sea and also to document that the crowd Jesus is about to address are the very ones who just witnessed the sign of the miraculous feeding.

Verses 26-27 – Seek spiritual not physical food.

In contrast to physical food, which does nourish but cannot prevent physical death, Jesus was offering spiritual food which endured to eternal life.

Eternal life which the Son of Man shall give you...for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal.

One function of a seal was the authorization to act. The Father had authorized the Son to act for Him (John 5:32-47).

Verses 28-29 What shall we do?

They still thought they could do some work or works to obtain eternal life. Using their imagery, Jesus plainly states that to satisfy God they must believe! This verse is not teaching that faith is a work but contrasting faith with works.

Works or Faith?

For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Romans 3:28 See also Romans 4:5 & Ephesians 2:8-9