

## John 6

### Some Facts

- In chapter 6. Jesus moved from Judea to Galilee. He leaves behind the crowds in Capernaum to be alone with His disciples in an isolated place in the wilderness.
- Jesus was rejected by the Jewish authorities in Judea in chapter 5 and he is rejected by the masses in Galilee in chapter 6
- First of the Seven Metaphorical “I am” statements are from John Chapter 6
  1. I am the bread of life 6:35, 48, 51

### Parallels between **John 6** and **Numbers 11**

Where are we to get meat/bread?	John 6:5; Num. 11:13
The striking disproportion between the existing need and the available resources	John 6:7–9; Num. 11:22
The description of the manna	John 6:31; Num. 11:7–9
The people’s grumbling	John 6:41, 43; Num. 11:1
The reference to the eating of meat/Jesus’ “flesh”	John 6:51; Num. 11:13

### **The Fifth Sign: The Feeding of Five Thousand**

- This is the only miracle during Jesus’ ministry that is recorded in all four Gospels.
- Two hundred denarii constitute roughly eight months’ wages, since one denarius was about one day’s pay
- Barley was common food for the poor (the more well-to-do preferred wheat bread). The fish were probably dried or preserved, perhaps pickled relish to be taken with the bread.
- “So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten” (v. 13). The twelve baskets of leftovers are more food than Jesus started with—one basket each for the twelve tribes of Israel. The supply is abundant. God provides plenty to meet our needs.
  - o Other interpretation: as God establishing the People of Israel (12 tribes) in the Old Testament.
  - o Other interpretation: as a calling to pour out into ministry and God will provide (John Piper, <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/twelve-baskets-of-bread-and-the-walk-on-water>)

### Walking on Water

- They had rowed about three or four miles. If the feeding of the multitude took place at the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, the shortest distance to Capernaum would be 5–6 miles (8–10 km). Walking on the sea is not something Jesus did just to amaze the disciples, but rather it is a powerful, visible demonstration of Jesus' sovereignty over the world that he created
- Quote from John Piper: I did a miracle for you on the land, and gave each of you a basket of bread. I showed you that I will be your personal bread—each one of you. If you have an overwhelming ministry in front of you—to feed 5 thousand—and you feel totally inadequate, not only will I give you resources to feed them, I will be there for you when it is all over. I will not just give you bread; I will be your bread.

### The Bread of Life discourse

- Jesus didn't come into the world, mainly to deliver us from the suffering of this present time, he came mainly to deliver us from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10)
- *Jesus did not come into the world mainly to give bread, but to be bread. "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will not hunger. He who believes in me will never thirst" (John 6:35; he repeats himself in verses 48 and 51). He came into the world not to give bread, but to be bread.*

### The Twelve remain, many others leave

- Two verses John 6:63 and 68 both refer to the words of Jesus as life-giving.
- In verse 68, Jesus had just said something that caused many disciples to leave him. He had said in verse 65, "No one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." Then verse 66 adds, "After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him."

When the sovereignty of God over dead sinners coming to Jesus is affirmed this clearly, a crisis is created. Objections begin to rise up in our minds, and for many of us there has come a season of great confusion and sometimes terror. And what we get a glimpse of in verse 68 is part of what goes on inside the head of those who don't leave Jesus because of these problems.

Jesus says, in verse 67, "Do you want to go away as well?" And Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go?" In that simple question, Peter is saying, We've considered it. We've allowed ourselves to ponder what it might like to turn away from you. This is very relevant for some of us. How do some people work through the sovereignty of God in the salvation of sinners?

**Discussion Questions**

1. Did the miracle of the feeding illicit faith amongst the crowd? What were they interested in? Look at vv 14-15; 24-26; 32-34 how do we mitigate some of the misconceptions that can occur with miracles.
2. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life.....

Should we really not work for the bread that perishes—that is, shouldn't we have jobs that earn money to pay for food? And 2) what does it mean to work for the food that endures to eternal life? Isn't that food a free gift? So why does Jesus say to "labour" for it?

3. One of the main concerns of seekers contemplating faith in Jesus is whether they will really be able to live as genuine followers of Christ. How can you encourage them? (ref to John 6:35-40)
4. How do you know that God has called you? Look at John 6:44-45. Who ultimately enables you to believe?
5. What was the hard teaching mentioned in v60? Why did this cause them to argue and walk away? What are the hard sayings that make people walk away today? Give several possibilities. How do you react? What can you do?
6. What was the "hard teaching" mentioned in v 60?  
Why did this cause them to argue among themselves (v 52)?  
Why would this teaching cause many to stop following Jesus?
7. Has Jesus satisfied you spiritual hunger? How?
8. When are you most tempted to deny/ hide your faith? Can you remember a time when it was scary to follow Jesus? Following Jesus doesn't always bring quick rewards. What are some of the costs of following Jesus?