

## I. John 6:1-25 – Intensified Training for the Twelve

### A. John 6:1-15 – The fourth sign miracle: Jesus fed the multitude

1. John 6:1 – *After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias)* . This is the only miracle recorded by **all** four Gospel writers. Through this miracle, Jesus showed He was God incarnate. John 1:14, 20:30-31
  - a. When Jesus multiplied the boy’s small lunch, it showed He could create something out of **nothing**. Only God can do that. Colossians 1:15-16
  - b. In Hebrews 11:3 we are reminded that God formed the entire universe by commanding it to appear. God made everything out of that which cannot be seen. Only God has that kind of power. Jesus is **God** . Psalm 33:6
2. John 6:2 – *A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick* . Jesus was at the height of His popularity. Everywhere he went He drew huge audiences. But His popularity would soon **drop**.
3. John 6:3 – *Then Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples* . Jesus’ disciples had just returned from their missionary travels. Jesus invited them to an isolated location to rest. Maybe He planned to use this as a teaching time. But the multitudes wouldn’t leave Jesus **alone**. Mark 6:30-35, Luke 9:10-12
4. John 6:4 – *Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near*. This is the **second** Passover that John mentions in his gospel (John 2:13, 11:55). It may be Jesus went to Jerusalem after these events to celebrate this Passover. It should be remembered that Passover was more than just a meal. Passover was a joyous event that involved travel, preparations and eating.
5. John 6:5 – *Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?”* Jesus had compassion on the people. Philip was from the nearby town of Bethsaida, so logically he would know where the best place to buy **food** was located. Matthew 14:14, Mark 6:34
6. John 6:6 – *This He was saying to test him [Philip], for He Himself knew what He was intending to do*. Jesus already **knew** He was going to work a miracle to provide food, but by asking this question, He gave His disciples a wonderful opportunity to deepen their dependence on Him.
  - a. This reminds us of Adam in the Garden of Eden. He did not know he needed a companion and helper until God showed him. Why would God show him his need if there was nothing Adam could do about it? Because it gave Adam an opportunity to **depend** totally on God and then rejoice in His bountiful provision. Genesis 2:18-22
  - b. We should rejoice when we face impossible and ludicrous situations because they provide a wonderful opportunity for us to **trust** our all-powerful and compassionate Creator. 2 Corinthians 1:9, 12:9; Philippians 4:6-7, 19
7. John 6:7 – *Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.”* The amount of money needed to feed the crowd was basically a year’s salary. Just like Philip, our default is to **calculate** the possibility and then depend on logic or commonsense rather than on God’s supernatural ability.
8. John 6:8-9 – *One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?”* Five loaves of bread and two fish would never **satisfy** such a large crowd. It is amazing they even mentioned it to Jesus. Nevertheless, Jesus took the offering.
9. John 6:10 – *Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place* . *So the men sat down, in number about five thousand*. According to the book of Mark, the people were organized into **groups** of 50 and 100 (Mark 6:40). According to Matthew the number 5,000 was not including the women and children (Mat. 14:21).
10. John 6:11 – *Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise, also of the fish as much as they wanted* . Jesus **thanked** the Father for the boy’s offering, small as it was. Then He gave it to His disciples to serve and strangely it kept multiplying. They must have enjoyed distributing this amazing provision.
11. John 6:12-13 – *When they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost.”* So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley

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loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Twelve baskets full was exceedingly **beyond** what they had to begin with! Mark 6:42

- a. In 2 Kings 4:42-44, there is a similar story where God turned a small amount of food into enough for 100 prophets. When all had eaten, there was food **leftover**.
  - b. In a similar way, God has blessed us today with incomprehensible **riches**. We have all we need to live godly lives in this sinful world of suffering. 2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 1:3, 3:8, 20-21; Philippians 4:19, 2 Peter 1:3
12. John 6:14 – *Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”* John presented this sign miracle with the **intent** of showing that Jesus is God the Creator and as such the qualified provider of salvation. John 1:3, 10; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16
13. John 6:15 – *So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.* Sadly, the people missed the point of the miracle. They were focused on Jesus as a revolutionary political **activist**, not as the Savior of the world. They were more interested in the temporary than the eternal.

## B. John 6:16-21 – The fifth sign miracle: Jesus walked on water

1. John 6:16 – *Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea.* Because the crowd sought to make Him their **king** by force, Jesus instituted a plan to avoid their actions. According to Matthew 14:22, Jesus made His disciples go away by boat, while He went back to send away the crowds. Then He went up the mountain alone to pray.
2. John 6:17 – *... and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum.* It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. While the disciples were crossing the sea, Jesus was off on the mountain in **prayer**. Jesus would soon catch up to them on the sea, but by a method no other human being had ever tried. Mark 6:46-47
3. John 6:18 – *The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.* The disciples faced a strong contrary **wind**, making progress difficult, but were too far out to turn back. The sea of Galilee is about 7 miles wide and 12 miles long; strong winds can make the sea extremely dangerous to small fishing boats.
4. John 6:19 – *Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened.* This would **terrify** even the most stoic human. People just don't walk on water. Only God can resist gravity and defy the laws of nature. Once more Jesus showed through a sign that He was God.
5. John 6:20 – *But He said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.”* Without calming the storm, Christ instantly stilled the disciples' hearts with His **words**. In the Greek language, Jesus literally said, “I am (EGO EIMI),” which is an expression of deity throughout the book of John. At this, the disciples lost all fear and welcomed Him onboard. Isaiah 41:10
6. John 6:21 – *So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.* Jesus performed yet another miracle by **instantly** teleporting them to their destination, about three miles away.
  - a. Several **proofs** of Christ's deity happened on that one day. Jesus healed the sick, fed more than 5,000 (Mat. 14:21), walked on water (Peter, too), stopped the wind, and made the boat instantly arrive at its destination. Matthew 14:28-33
  - b. A lack of **evidence** of Jesus deity and messiahship is not a valid reason for people to not believe in Christ. The evidence is powerful. Unwillingness to trust in the Lord has always been the real problem people have in recognizing Jesus as their Savior. Romans 1:18-24
7. John 6:22 – *The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone.* The crowd from the day before was **puzzled** concerning Jesus' whereabouts. They knew He had not left with His disciples.
8. John 6:23-24 – *There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So, when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.* These people were determined to find Jesus so they could get more free **food**.
9. John 6:25 – *When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You get here?”* The crowd recognized Jesus as a great **teacher**, but not as their messiah. They wanted him to be their king but not their savior.