

Ep 1-25 - Bread and Water

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. The Feeding of the Five Thousand: a commonly taught miracle, but its outcome is not often discussed.

A. Setting up the miracle. John 6:1-10.

1. V.1. After his confrontation with the Pharisees. This sea was near city of Tiberias.
2. V.2. People would do the same today! Miracles are not consistent with His present purpose. Ephesians 2:7, John 20:29.
3. V.3. A mountain overlooking Galilee. He was resting, or teaching His disciples.
4. V.4. The Passover tells us the time of year. Counting Passovers is why we think the Lord's ministry lasted three years.
5. V.5. John 4 told us the disciples were in charge of buying food. (Female followers paid for it, Luke 8:2-3.) Philip's home city of Bethsaida nearby (John 1:44.)
6. V.6. The Lord was testing Philip. He already knew His plan!
7. V.7. Denarius=a day's wage. If 12,000 people, say \$2.50 a person.
8. V.8-9. Lunch of a small boy (I wonder who?). Loaves=biscuits, fish like sardines.
9. V.10. They sit on grass to eat. Men excepting women and children (Matt. 14:21)

B. The miracle worked. John 6:11-13.

1. V.11. How would this have looked? Fourth sign, showing mastery over nature. Proves He is God Himself. Also, shows how God will care for world in Kingdom.
2. V.12. Our society is very wasteful. Not so in God's government
3. V.13. Were the fish all eaten? Or were left fish ignored because they so quickly perish? Each disciple gathered more bread than the starting bread!
4. V.14. They think He is the Prophet like Moses. Deut. 18:18. Acts 3:20-23
5. V.15. They try to force Him to be king! Then it would be His job to feed them.

III. The Lord Jesus Walking on the Water.

- A. Verse 16. They did this by the Lord's command?
- B. Verse 17. Ship=fishing smack. Capernaum was the Lord's home. The Lord was going to meet them. After they set sail? They must have wondered how!
- C. Verse 18. A windstorm arises.
- D. Verse 19. 25-30 furlongs, 202 yards, 2.9-3.4 miles. The story started at 2.9, ended at 3.4? Halfway across the sea! Fifth sign, mastery over nature, proves He is God. Fourth and fifth only two recorded in other gospels. Similar to miracles of Elisha (II Kings 4:42-44, 6:1-7.) The disciples were not expecting this, and so were afraid!
- E. Verse 20. He comforts them. This was a big deal to them, nothing to Him!
- F. Verse 21. The ship goes from halfway to the other side! Transfer of matter impossible to science, but not to the Lord.

IV. Conclusion: Miracles do not always produce belief. These people saw in this miracle only an opportunity for material gain, not for producing faith. Yet these miracles, recorded in the Bible, can produce belief in us through the eyes of faith. Do we perceive the message of these miracles, and believe in Jesus as the Son of God, God's very representative in human form?