

The Book of John - 32

Introduction - We are entering into a new chapter in the book of John. This chapter is one of the longest chapters in the New Testament, **containing 71 verses**. As we begin to examine this passage in its entirety, I want to remind you that we are in **sections 3 and 4** of our outline:

III. The Coming Rejection of the Word 5-6:60

IV. The Conflict with the Word 6:60-12:50

A. The Demonstration of His Power In _____ vs. 1-21

1. The Feeding of the 5000. vs. 1-15
2. The Walking on the Water. vs. 16-21

B. The Demonstration of His Power in _____ vs. 22-71

1. The Discourse on the Bread of Life. vs. 22-59
2. The Discourse with the Disciples. vs. 60-71

We understand that these records are intended not only to make one wise unto Salvation (**2 Timothy 3:15; John 20:31**) but also to teach us about our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (**John 5:39**). The feeding of the 5000 is so important that it is recorded in **all** of the Gospel records. Merrill C Tenney said: "The narrative on which the discourse on the bread of life depends is common to all four Gospels. Since it is the only miracle recorded by all of them, it must have been regarded as possessing singular importance."

Matthew 14:13-21 ; Mark 6:30-44 ; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

I like the big picture that Warren Wiersbe gives in His outlines concerning the sign miracles recorded in the book of John. He states, "The first three signs (turning the water into wine, the healing of the noblemen's son, and the healing of the impotent man) illustrate how one is saved by the Word, by faith, and by grace. The fourth sign (feeding the 5,000) shows us that salvation **satisfies the inner needs of the heart.**"

Feeding the 5,000 (**6:1–14**)—Salvation brings **satisfaction.**

Stilling the storm (**6:15–21**)—Salvation brings **peace.**

Healing the blind man (**9:1–7**)—Salvation brings **light.**

Raising Lazarus from the dead (**11:34–46**)—Salvation brings **life.**

Not only do we see in this passage this precious sign, but we also see some intimate

work being done in the life of disciples (**6:16-21**), both those who are **true disciples** and those who are **false**.

In **Verse 66**, we read the disheartening words, *“From that time many of his **disciples** went back, and walked no more with him.”*

In opposition to this, we read in **verses 67-69**, *“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

It is interesting to note that John does not record the retirement of Caesarea Philippi with Peter’s confession (**Matthew 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-29; Luke 9:18-20**). Peter’s confession is similar to what we find here in **verse 69**. As we read this chapter, we should understand that this time is the height of the Lord’s popularity as His fame spreads through the regions of Galilee.

A. The Demonstration of His Power In Miracles vs. 1-21

The phrase *“After these things...”* presents a continuation of the narrative in the book of John. It should be noted, though, that this is not a strict chronology.

When we look at **chapters 5 and 6**, we immediately jump from Jerusalem (**5:1**) in chapter 5 to the region of Galilee (**6:1**) in chapter 6.

John Philips tells us that **chapter 6** “contains all that John has to say about **an entire year’s** Galilean ministry in the life of the Lord.”

This passage also tells us that these things take place in the **region of Galilee**, specifically the Sea of Galilee, called the Sea of Tiberias. The Sea of Galilee is about thirteen miles long and eight miles wide. It is mentioned by several different names in the Scriptures.

In **Luke 5:1**, it is called the Sea of Gennesaret. Here, it is called the Sea of Tiberias and in **Numbers 34**, it is referred to as the Sea of Chinnereth.

The name Sea of Tiberias given to us here references a Roman city recently founded by Herod Antipas called Tiberias.

Verse 2 says, “*And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.*”

The two words used here to express **following** and **seeing** His miracles indicate that they had been following the Lord for some time. The distance that these traveled by foot to follow the Lord is thought by some to be about **nine miles**.

Before we get further into this text, I want to point out that folks often misdiagnose their greatest need, which we know is the Lord Jesus Christ. People frequently believe their greatest need is more money... Perhaps they think they need

better health or a better job or a better family or a better country to live in... These folks, we will discover, thought they needed a political ruler... or someone to provide them with an endless supply of food... And if that was all provided... if they had enough food to suffice the body... **would that change their alienation from God?**

John 6:3–4 sets the stage and tells us, “*3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. 4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.*”

As we leave stop for this morning, we see the Lord Jesus Christ sitting with His disciples... investing in them, preparing them for the next step... And so, it is with you and me, we are ever spending time with the Lord Jesus Christ...

We are meeting with Him... we are learning of Him...

I love the words of the Lord and His invitation — He says in Matthew 11:29, “*29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*”

