

Week 14

BREAD OF LIFE

John 6:1

This time period represents the mid period of the three years of Jesus ministry. After these things; John did not give a specific time reference, but we know that the events recorded here took place on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. If the feast mentioned at the beginning of the 5th chapter was Passover, then almost a year has passed between the events of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 . The Sea of Galilee is a large lake about 7 miles by 13 miles. It lies below sea level and is often disturbed by bad storms. Herod named it the Sea of Tiberius to honor the Emperor Tiberius.

By now Jesus had a large group of people following Him because of the miracles He was doing.

In these first months of Jesus' ministry He went about ministering, healing and many people were drawn to Him. Remember John told us that there were many signs and miracles, which were not recorded, but these (the ones he recorded) were chosen especially to help us know that Jesus is the Messiah or Christ and believe and receive the gift of eternal life.

V4

John again gives a time reference and no doubt many who were seated there were thinking about the Passover about to take place and their journey to Jerusalem to celebrate. Remember the 1st Passover in Egypt, as commanded by God, involved a lamb without any blemish, a likeness or type of Messiah. The lamb had to be killed at a particular time and that lamb's blood placed over the doorframe of the house to show the Death Angel that this one was protected by the blood of the lamb and the Angel would literally Passover this home.

The faithful Israelites who obeyed God were saved because they trusted in the blood of the lamb. The Jews were commanded to keep this feast forever.

One lamb sufficed for each family at that first Passover, now One Lamb, the Lamb of God, suffices for everyone who will in faith apply His blood to the doorpost of your heart as an individual. As you have faith in that blood to protect you from eternal death, death or eternal separation from God, the

Death Angel will Passover you and you will have life eternal. Yes, we transition out of this life, Paul said "absent from the body, present with the LORD".

The lamb the Israelites chose had to be selected a week prior to the sacrifice on "Lamb selection day", and held aside to be sure it was without blemish, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Lamb selection day, Palm Sunday. He was sacrificed for our sin on Passover, some believe at the very moment the lamb was slain in the temple court. Remember His last word "Tetelestai", "it is finished". What was finished, the old ceremonial system of worship, and method of atonement which was begun with the tabernacle in the wilderness. All the ceremony there pointed to Jesus, the final atonement. At the moment of His death, the veil in the Temple, which separated the Holy of Holies-the earthly dwelling of God-from the Holy Place, symbolic of the separation of man and God because of sin, was torn in two from top to bottom. Friends this Veil was 60 feet high, 30 feet wide and weighed 4 ton. Thirty men were required to hold it. Only the High Priest pass through it, one day a year, with the blood of the Passover lamb. That veil symbolized Jesus, the only way to God.

Jesus, our High Priest entered the Temple in heaven with His own blood (according to Hebrews), and when He had entered, He sat down at the right Hand of the throne of God. The High Priest had to offer the same sacrifice every year because the "blood of bulls and goats could not atone for sin" (Hebrews 10:4-12) however the blood of the Lamb of God was adequate for all sin for all time, even yours. God was satisfied with His sacrifice, now we, who have trusted this blood to save us, can enter and speak to God without a priest as an intermediary. Never again are we separated from God, He stepped out of the Holy of Holies and now dwells in us. Romans 5:6-11. Jesus said the Temple would be left desolate; it was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD and has never been rebuilt. As long as it stood, it represented the old covenant.

Jesus was buried during the Jewish feast of unleavened bread (the day after Passover when all leaven or sin is cleaned from the house) 1 Corinthians 5:7,8. And He was raised on the Feast of First Fruits, the day after the Sabbath (Saturday), which is the Sunday, first day of the week. This is why we celebrate and worship on Sunday. 1 Corinthians 15:2-23.

As He looked around when He was finished teaching, He had compassion on the people gathered there because He knew they were hungry.

Phillip was in his hometown so he might have had some idea of how to answer this question, but verse 6 tells us why Jesus questioned him.

Phillip was frustrated because he could only see his own limited resources instead of looking at the limitlessness of God.

Phillip did not even answer the question; he just started stating the difficulties. When asked where to get the bread all he thought of was how much it would cost, isn't that so human?

Do you limit what God does in you by assuming what is and what is not possible? Is there some seemingly impossible task God has asked you to do?

He will always supply, He is always sufficient, if you will step out in faith and trust Him. Again, He is not asking you to supply, just be available for Him to work through. After all Phillip just had to hand out the bread, not supply it.

Is He asking you to do anything impossible?

Say yes for a great blessing, the challenges and the wonderful fellowship He will provide, as you work together will be all out of proportion to what you give Him.

V10-12

What the child gave was enough in the hands of Jesus; it was actually more than enough.

This miracle also is described in Matthew 14:21 and he lets us know there were wives and children in the group. There were 5000 men, so if there were wives and children, this crowd could have easily numbered around 20,000 hungry people. Please note that Jewish law said that no crumb larger than an olive could be left. Jesus kept the law perfectly.

V14

It didn't take long for this crowd to figure out they had seen a miracle and they came up with an explanation. Who is the Prophet they are talking about? (Notice the word Prophet is capitalized in most bibles). Turn to Deuteronomy 18:15-18. I am curious as to whether any of you have

started reading in your old testament since we talked about it. Remember the bible is His story; it's all about Jesus, cover to cover. So Deut 18:15-18 Moses speaking, "The Lord your GOD will raise up a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

And verse 18 This is the LORD speaking now and Moses quoting Him: "I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen or brothers like you , and I will put My words in His mouth and He shall speak to them all that I command Him".

By the way, the following verses 20 to 22 should be underlined in red in your bible, it is God's advice to His people on how to know if a prophet comes from Him or not, or how to recognize a false prophet.

V15

The people had it right, Jesus was the Prophet they were expecting. However, they had been led to believe by their scribes and leaders that the Prophet would be a political leader. Why did they believe this? It was what they wanted, they didn't know the scriptures, and they didn't know the truth.

Jesus then went up into the mountain to be alone to pray and the disciples went down the hill to the lake. Though it was late in the day, the disciples were experienced boatmen who would have felt comfortable sailing at night.

The Sea of Galilee is 600 feet below sea level surrounded by high hills. It is 150 feet deep and is subject sudden windstorms, which produce extremely high waves.

Of the three gospels that describe Jesus walking on the water, John gives the fewest details. We learn from the other gospels that Jesus had instructed them to go on ahead (Matthew 14:22) Luke 9:10 tells us that Jesus told the disciples to board a boat while he dismissed the crowd, no doubt many wanted to talk to Him.

It was now dark, John's careful time reference.

V18-19

If they had rowed 3-4 miles they were making slow going of it, they were only half way across, there must have been quite a headwind. Suddenly there was Jesus walking on the water, He had just walked 3-4 miles in high

waves and terrible winds. Of course they were terrified, who would ever expect this?

V20

This is another instance where Jesus said "I AM", do not be afraid". I AM is the Name of God given to Moses at the burning bush and Jesus refers to Himself several times in the gospels in this way. In the Greek it is "ego eimi" literally "I Yahweh, am here". Yahweh or Jehovah is the Name God gave to Moses. In the Hebrew language it is 4 consonants the Hebrews added the vowels to make it pronounceable, however they never spoke it out loud and used the word LORD instead. This they did this in response to the 3rd commandment, Exodus 20:7

V21

We see another miracle or sign, the boat was immediately at the other side of the lake.

Wouldn't you love to have heard the conversation between the disciples that night? What a day they had experienced. Were they still expecting a political leader? Jesus had certainly given evidence that He had the power to easily subdue the current system and give Israel the power to throw off Roman rule.