

(1) After this, Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following Him, because they saw the signs that He was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples.

(4) Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up His eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward Him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little."

(NOTE: 1 denarius = an average day's wage for most people of that day.)

(8) One of the disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when He had given thanks, He distributed them to those who were seated. So, also, the fish, as much as they wanted.

(12) And when they had eaten their fill, He told His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So, they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that He had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by Himself.

(16) When evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat --- and they were frightened! But He said, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they were glad to take Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

Think on these things:

- 1) During Roman rule in Israel, what was the name given to the Sea of Galilee? This is also the name of the Roman city where the government seat was located on the west coast of the lake.

- 2) In John 2:13 we see Jesus going to Jerusalem to celebrate the first Passover Feast of His ministry, so here in 6:4 we can notice that at least a whole year has passed between John chapters 2 & 6 (John 6:4 is the second Passover of His ministry). In v.6, it says Jesus asked Philip a question knowing what He would already do. Philip concluded that Jesus was asking the impossible. Has God ever done this to you, asking something you believed was too much for/from you? Would you be willing to share it?

- 3) James 1:2-3 says that we should "consider it pure joy" when God tests us and puts us through trials. What do we further learn from Deuteronomy 8:2 and James 1:12? Do your best to explain the difference between tests & trials and temptations. Are you joyful when tested by God in life? What does James 1:13-17 teach us about temptations (e.g., does God tempt us to do wrong?)?

Deuteronomy 8:2 - _____

James 1:12 - _____

Difference between a test/trial and a temptation? _____

What is your feeling when facing God's tests/trials? _____

James 1:13-17 - _____

4) How many people would you estimate ate that day (v.10)? Is 5,000 an accurate guess?

5) What other details do you see about the feeding of 5,000 (men) in vs. 11-13?

6) Why did Jesus walk away from the crowd and go higher up the mountain (v.15)?

7) These are two of the most famous miracles of Jesus (vs. 10-14 and 19), something even many unbelievers have heard about. Do you believe these things really happened? Explain.

8) Imagine you were one of the 12 disciples present on the day that Jesus walked on the water during the storm and approached your struggling boat. What do you think would be your impression from everything that you observed?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: