



Evangelist Carolyn Luke

Bible Commentary —Gospel of John—Chapter 6:1-35

John 6:1

After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

About six months elapsed between John 5:47 and this verse. Herod Antipas had killed John the Baptist and was seeking Jesus. The disciples had preached throughout Galilee, and many people were curious about Jesus. John identifies the Sea of Galilee as the Sea of Tiberias, an indication that his Gospel was written for those outside of Palestine. The Jewish people called this body of water the Lake Genessaret. The Romans called it Tiberias, after the city built on its western shore by Herod Antipas and named for the Emperor Tiberius.

John 6:2

And a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His miracles which He did on them that were diseased.

The people had witnessed the miracles Jesus performed and they were following Him. Most likely those that were sick and diseased to receive a miracle.

Those that are sick with sin or diseases should come to Jesus. He came to save the lost. Some will be healed of

sickness and others will receive their healing when they enter heaven. All sickness will not be healed on this side of heaven.

John 6:3

And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

Jesus sat with His disciples on the mountain. He probably was looking down below at the multitude following them. Most likely He was giving His disciples instructions of what to do as they minister to the people.

John 6:4

And the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

This is the third Passover during Jesus' ministry. The Jews were preparing to participate in the Passover not knowing they had the Passover standing among them.

The Passover celebration was to commemorate God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

Jesus had come in the form of humanity to deliver them from their sins. He was their deliverer. He was their Redeemer. He was their Salvation. He was their Advocate. He was their Great Physician.

John 6:5

When Jesus then lifted up His eyes, and saw a great company come unto Him, He saith unto Phillip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

After seeing the multitude, He asked His disciples where would they purchase bread for this great multitude. Jesus had compassion on His followers. He knew they had been traveling far to reach Him.

John 6:6

And this He said to prove him: for He Himself knew what He would do.

Jesus was testing Philip to see what He would say. They were not close to a market to purchase bread. Jesus knew what He was going to do, but did His disciples know Him well enough to know what He would do?

John 6:7

Philip answered Him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that everyone of them may take a little.

Two hundred pennyworth was two hundred denarius. Two hundred denarius would have been almost two-thirds day of a year's wages.

Bible Commentary —Gospel of John—Chapter 6:1-35

Continued—John 6:7

Philip is thinking two hundred pennyworth would not be enough for every one to receive a piece of bread, if so, they would have to take a small portion of bread that would not suffice their hunger.

John 6:8

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto Him.

After Philip had given his idea on the matter. Simon Peter's brother, was also trying to solve the problem of feeding so many people. He's looking around to see what could they do to resolve the problem.

John 6:9

There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

Barley loaves were an inexpensive food of the common people and poor. Andrew knowing two fishes and five barley loaves would not be enough to feed the multitude.

John 6:10

And Jesus said, *Make the men sit down.* Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

Jesus gave His disciples instructions of what to do with the men. The men sat down in the number they were instructed to set in.

It's always wise when we can

follow the instructions the Lord give us if we want an answer to our prayers. We must follow instructions. Instructions are for the benefit who follow and applies.

John 6:11

And Jesus took the loaves; and when He had given thanks, He distributed to the disciples and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would [wanted].

Jesus performed two miracles to the five thousand. He fed five thousand with five barley loaves and two small fishes. He had the disciples to distribute the food. Can you imagine how long it would have taken to distribute to five thousand people with only twelve disciples?

John 6:12

When they were filled, He said unto His disciples, *Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.*

Jesus instructed the disciples to gather the fragments that were left of the miracle. They were not to leave any behind.

Jesus and His disciples were going to another town and they could use what was left over to give the people in the next town they were going to.

John 6:13

Therefore, they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the barley loaves

John 6:13—Continued

which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

The remaining of the food left from five barley loaves were twelve baskets. One would wonder where did the twelve baskets come from? Where they already with the disciples and Jesus? Were they given to them from the people they fed or was this another miracle Jesus performed with the baskets?

John 6:14

Then those men, when they had seen the miracles that Jesus did, said, *This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.*

After seeing the miracles the men begin to believe that Jesus was the prophet that was foretold that would come into the world.

We may not receive a miracle, but we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and He's our Redeemer. Only through Him can we get our sins forgiven and be reconciled to the Father.

John 6:15

When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take Him by force to make Him a king, He departed again into a mountain Himself alone.

They still didn't perceive who Jesus was. He was already a King and the King of Kings. Their misperception caused

Bible Commentary —Gospel of John—Chapter 6:1-35

John 6:15—Continued

them to want to make Him an earthly king. Not only were they going to make Him an earthly king, but they were going to take Him by force.

John 6:16

And when even was now come, His disciples went down unto the sea.

Jesus had compelled the disciples to gather the fragments that was left and return to the ship. He had discerned what the people were about to do and He was concerned about their safety.

After sending His disciples away, Jesus went into the mountain. Jesus always made time to spend with the Father.

Just as Jesus separated Himself to meet with the Father, we have to do the same thing as Christians if we want to be empowered to live a godly lifestyle in a godless world.

John 6:17

And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.

It was already dark by the time the disciples got out on the lake. They were probably wondering where was Jesus. Although they were walking and talking with Him, being trained by Him, they yet did not understand Jesus.

If they really knew Him they would have known He was somewhere praying. Jesus always prayed, and He would still away to Himself.

John 6:18

And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.

The wind began to pick up, setting the stage for Jesus to provide another revelation of Himself.

When we're going through difficult times, it's setting the stage for the Lord to show Himself on our behalf.

God never allows us to go through difficulties without having a plan of what He's going to do and what He desires for us to learn.

John 6:19

So when they had rowed above five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

The wind was boisterous, and they had been rowing for awhile and Jesus had not come to them. They most likely didn't expect to see Him coming to them walking on the sea.

They were already afraid, now they look up and they see Jesus walking on the sea. They thought He was a spirit.

They were probably hollering, seeing something coming towards them before they recognized that it was Jesus. They knew no one could walk on the sea unless it were a spirit or God.

John 6:20

But He saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.

This miracle, the fifth sign recorded by John pointed to Jesus' deity. Only God could walk on water.

He immediately told them, it was He and for them not to be afraid.

Whenever Jesus' Spirit comes near you, you will never be afraid, but when an ungodly spirit comes near you, sometimes it will make one afraid or very uncomfortable.

John 6:21

Then they willingly received Him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

Only God could walk on water, calm the sea, and supernaturally transport the disciples to their destination.

John 6:22

The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one wherein to His disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples were gone away alone.

The multitude had seen that there was only one boat and Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples. They assumed Jesus was still there

Bible Commentary —Gospel of John—Chapter 6:1-35

John 6:22—Continued

and were looking for Him.

John 6:23

Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh [near] unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks.

The people saw other boats from Tiberias nearby but Jesus was not on that boat so they're thinking He must be still there because He was not on the Tiberias boat.

John 6:24

When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither His disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

Hunger was common and a Messiah who could multiply food was the one most people were ready to follow.

After the people recognized that Jesus was not there neither were His disciples they went looking for Him in Capernaum.

John 6:25

And when they had found Him on the other side of the sea, they said until Him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

They searched until they found Jesus and asked Him when did He arrive.

Just as the people were seeking and searching for Jesus, we too have to seek and search for Him in the Scriptures. He speaks to us through the written Word.

John 6:25—Continued

We seek Him when we're praying to the Father. As we know Jesus we will know the Father.

John 6:26

Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek Me not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

Jesus was well aware the people weren't following Him because they believed the miracle but because they ate of the miracle He performed.

People are still doing as the people of Jesus' dispensation. They want to receive the blessings of the Lord, but they don't want to live according to His instructions to be followers of Christ.

John 6:27

Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life which the Son of man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed.

Do not labor for the food, the impression that one must work for eternal life is quickly corrected when Jesus states He's the giver of life. Salvation can't be worked for or earned, it's a gift that only God can give.

John 6:28

Then said they unto Him, What shall we do that we might work the works of God?

The people understood that Jesus was not talking about food, but eternal life. They saw the miracle Jesus performed and they wanted to work miracles like Jesus.

John 6:29

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.

Jesus was letting them know it was not by works. The Pharisees and Sadducees taught them it was by works and not by God's grace.

Many Christians today think the same way. Thinking they can work themselves into heaven rather than believing on Him that came to redeem them from their sins and reconcile them to the Father.

John 6:30

They said therefore unto Him, What sign showest [perform] thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? What dost thou work?

They had just saw a miracle and ate of the miracle; now they're asking Him to show them a sign so they could see and believe.

How quickly they had forgotten the miracles He performed.

Bible Commentary —Gospel of John—Chapter 6:1-35

John 6:30—Continued

Sometimes Christians forget how He had blessed them, made a way, healed their bodies. Healed their marriages, and soon as difficult come into their lives they forget all the other times He was there for them and brought them out with the victory.

John 6:31

Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

They're comparing the miracle Jesus performed with the five barley loaves and two fishes with the miracle of their forefathers eating manna in the desert.

There was also a tradition that said the Messiah would cause manna to fall from heaven as Moses did.

John 6:32

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

The crowd misrepresented the truth, so Jesus corrected them. The manna had not come from Moses; it had been provided by God. God still gives true bread, that is eternal life.

They're still thinking on what their forefathers had experienced. They had the Son of God standing before them. They had seen many miracles and they still trust their salvation on Moses and what they thought he done.

John 6:33

For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

He's continue to tell them; He is the Messiah they had heard was coming. Through Him they could have life eternal.

He's trying to get them to understand; it was not about Manna, but eternal life that He could give them.

He's trying to get them to understand, salvation was personal and each person had to seek Him for themselves.

So many times Christian based their relationship with God on what their parents' or grandparents' relationship with God.

Salvation is personal. We have to seek Him for ourselves. The Word of God promises, if we seek Him with our whole heart, we will find Him.

John 6:34

Then said they unto Him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

They are now acknowledging Him as Lord. Their spiritual eyes are now being open and they can understand what He is actually saying.

When we don't understand something, the Father is there to open our understanding.

John 6:34—continued

When we ask for understanding. As long as we live, we will always be learning more about God, the Son and the Bible. We don't graduate in the Spirit. It's always a learning experience until He calls us home.

John 6:35

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.

Bread of life means "bread which supplies life". Manna satisfies physical needs for a while, Jesus Christ satisfies spiritual hunger, and will give eternal life.

So many are seeking for everything except having a relationship with Jesus and the Father. What we acquire here on earth will be left for someone else. If we gain the whole world, and don't have Jesus in our lives, our soul will be lost.

Lost souls go to hell for eternity. Jesus came to give life eternally to live with Him.



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Hopefully this Bible commentary will help you to understand the Bible and assist you with your walk with the Lord.

If you have not received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, all you have to do is ask God to forgive you of your sins. Let Him know that you are aware that you have not submitted yourself to the Lord or His doctrine. Ask God to forgive you of your sins. Ask Him to save you, tell Him you accept His salvation by His Son.

If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, if you believe that Jesus died for your sins. If you believe that He was risen from the grave. Then you are saved.

Confess with your mouth that you're saved.

Romans 10:9-11

That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.

If you have truly accepted salvation, your heart and spirit has been changed. You will feel the cleanliness within your spirit and heart. Now it's your responsibility to read the Word of God, pray, fast and submit yourself to the Word of God. If you can attend worship service at church or at your facility, you should attend to be strengthen spiritually. As you submit yourself to the doctrine of the Bible you will see a change in your character and attributes.

You can't receive salvation and stay the same. That was the reason Jesus died so that you would be free from the bondage of sin. You can't change yourself, He will change you, if you allow Him.

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