

The Gospel of John

Two Miracles

John 6:1-21

Christ has made quite an impression on the people of Israel. He is still very popular with the people, but the leaders are now seeking to kill Him. These circumstances do not keep Him from working mighty miracles.

The Setting

- Christ has left Jerusalem and headed back to His native Galilee – vs. 1
 - Much time has passed since the close of chapter 5.
 - You can fit Luke 6:1-9:9 in this space.
- Multitudes of people have followed Him seeing His miracles – vs. 2
- Sometime in February or March, before Passover (March-April) – vs. 4

The Feeding of Five Thousand

- This event is covered in all four Gospels – Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14
 - Luke says it is near Bethsaida on northeastern shore of Sea of Galilee – Luke 9:10
 - Matthew places it directly after the death of John the Baptist – Matthew 14:10-13
- Jesus goes up to mountain to teach – vs. 3
- Jesus asks Philip how they could feed the crowd – vs. 5-7
 - Christ already knew what He was going to do – vs. 6
 - Philip estimates 200 denarii - vs. 7
 - Value calculated using silver - \$1,000
 - Value calculated using wages (1 denarius = common day's pay) - ~\$25,000
- Andrew finds a willing offering – vs. 8-9
- 5,000 men prepare for a meal that does not exist – vs. 10
 - This does not include women or children (Matthew 14:21) so there could be 15,000-20,000 people total.
- Jesus blesses the food, and it is distributed to everyone – vs. 11
- The leftovers fill twelve baskets – vs. 12-13
- Fired up by the miracle, the people proclaim Him to be Messiah – vs. 14
- Jesus retreats to prevent the people making Him king – vs. 15

Jesus Walks on the Water

- This event is also covered in Matthew 14:22-33 and Mark 6:45-52
- Christ's departure is because of the excitement following the feeding of the multitude – vs. 15
- Jesus sends the disciples ahead to Capernaum, roughly six miles west – vs. 16-17
- A storm arises that threatens the small boat – vs. 18
- The disciples rowed around four miles, almost to their destination – vs. 19
- They see Jesus walking on the water towards them – vs. 19
- Jesus calms their fears – vs. 20
 - John does not mention Peter walking on the water – Matthew 14:28-31
- After getting in the boat the storm ceases, and they are immediately at their destination – vs. 21
- This is the second time Christ calmed a storm – Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25