



John

Lesson 6 Chapter 6

By this point in John's gospel, John has identified 3 of the 7 signs that he documented to identify who Jesus is. In chapter 2, Jesus changed water to wine, which revealed His divine power to His disciples. In chapter 3, He healed the official's son, and in chapter 5, He healed a paralytic at the pool of Bethesda. Word about His miraculous power was spreading throughout Judea and Galilee, and He was drawing large crowds wherever He went. He was making claims about His identity and was preaching in places that were considered taboo for a Jew. All of this was raising concerns with the religious leaders.

John also shows Jesus to be a man on the move. In Chapter 4, Jesus was ministering and preaching in Judea, the region around Jerusalem, and then moved to Sychar in Samaria approximately 30 miles from Jerusalem. At the end of Chapter 4, He traveled to Cana in Galilee about 35 miles from Sychar. In Chapter 5, He went to Jerusalem again, which is about 65 miles from Cana; now in Chapter 6, He returns to the region around the Sea of Galilee. Despite the fact that many of the events in John are not in chronological order, it is still evident how much traveling Jesus did to minister to people. In the three years of His

public ministry, He made many trips back and forth from Galilee to Judea and into the surrounding areas. Although travel was fairly safe because of Roman rule, it was certainly not easy. Jesus traveled by foot, and the journey between Jerusalem and Nazareth alone took five days.

Although John clearly identifies Jesus as God incarnate in his opening words, in chapters 3-6 he identifies Jesus as a man of the people who is not a respecter of position or status. He spoke personally with the Pharisee, Nicodemus, in chapter 3, a Samaritan harlot and a Roman official in Chapter 4, and healed a lame man on the Sabbath in Chapter 5. Now in Chapter 6, Jesus will encounter a crowd of hungry people that need to be fed. This event will be John's fourth sign and will set up another significant discourse between Jesus, His followers, and the religious leaders. John identifies several long conversations, or discourses, that Jesus had with those who were interested in His identity. John alone records Jesus unusual discussion with Nicodemus and His shocking interaction with the Samaritan woman. To the Samaritan woman Jesus declared Himself to be the "living water," and in chapter 6, He identifies Himself as the "bread of life."

READ CHAPTER 6 (Parallel passages: Matthew 14:13-33; Mark 6:33-44; Luke 9:10-17)

1. *From Matthew 14:10-13, where were Jesus and the disciples going at this time and why were they going there?*

2. *In Luke 9:10 it says the disciples had just "returned." From verses 1-9 of Luke 9, where had they been before this time, and why does Jesus now want to spend some time alone with them? What happened instead? John 6:5; Luke 9:11; Matthew 14:13-14.*

3. *What was the response of the people to Jesus feeding them, and what did Jesus have to do because of this? John 6:14-15*

4. *Later the disciples leave to go back across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum. When they left, Jesus was still up on the mountain praying, but later approached their boat walking on the water. This was a disturbing sight for the disciples. In the parallel Matthew passage, how does Peter respond to this revelation of Jesus? What does that tell you about him? Why do you think He waited until they were in the boat to calm the storm?*

5. *The next day when the crowd realizes that the disciples and Jesus are no longer there, they go to the other side of the lake looking for them. When Jesus meets them, they question Him about when He arrived, but Jesus perceives the real motivation to their seeking Him. What does He say is the actual reason they were pursuing Him? What does He tell them they should be seeking? Vs. 24-27 In what ways do we make this mistake today?*

6. *From John: 48-51, how does Jesus compare Himself to the manna God provided the children of Israel in the wilderness?*

7. *Read Exodus 16:14-21. How do the Israelites respond to the manna, and what does Moses say about it? Vs. 15*

8. *Read Numbers 11:1-20. How do the people eventually feel about the bread that God had provided? It isn't wrong for them to need and want food so why does God respond harshly to their need?*

9. *What statement does Jesus make that finally causes many of His followers to leave Him? John 6:56-58 How do His disciples eventually understand what He meant by this statement? Matthew 26:26-29*

10. *Why do the twelve decide not to leave Him? Are there times when you don't understand what God is doing or what He says that causes you to doubt? What keeps you following Jesus in those times?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
