

John 6:16-59

Lesson 11

For December 07, 2008

Dr. Jerry Nelson

Water and Bread

Note: (v. 6:16-17) The apparent contradiction regarding the direction the disciples were headed (see Mark 6:45) is probably best reconciled by knowing that the location of Bethsaida is not known. It has been long believed that the feeding of the 5000 took place NW of the Sea of Galilee, but that is now disputed. I think the result is that we don't know enough to draw any conclusions.

1. (v. 6:17-21) Read Mark 6:45-51, Matthew 14:22-32. According to the other Gospels, why had Jesus not joined his disciples?

Why might John give such a short account of this amazing incident? (Remember, the Gospel of John was written quite a number of years after the other gospel accounts.)

2. (v. 6:22-26) What is Jesus' complaint? How does John 2:24-25 help us understand what is happening in 6:26?

Jesus differentiates between "miraculous signs" and eating their fill at the miracle of the feeding of the 5000; what is

11. (v. 6:43-47) What does Jesus say MUST happen for anyone to come to Christ (see 6:37-39)? Comparing verses 39-40, what does Jesus here say is the destiny of those who do come to him?

By what means, according to verse 45, does the Father draw people? How does verse 46 contribute to Jesus' authority?

12. (v. 6:48-51) What comparison does Jesus make regarding the bread from heaven and the manna the forefathers ate?

Read 6:35 and 6:41 – What several concepts does Jesus add in 6:51?

Analogy: Bread is to being eaten as Jesus is to being _____ (see 6:35). How will Jesus give his flesh for the world?

13. (v. 6:52-59) What does Jesus mean by “eating his flesh” and “drinking his blood?” What several results are there to be obtained from eating/drinking Jesus (see 6:54, 56, 57, 58)?

Think about it: While most commentators do not believe this passage specifically has the Lord's Supper in mind, what parallels can be drawn from what is symbolized by the Lord's

Supper and what actually occurs at a faith-filled receiving of the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper?

Reflection Questions

The crowds tenaciously followed Jesus. What were they seeking? What changed them from an initial form of belief, to disbelief?

The people wanted to know what they could “do” in order to do the works God requires (6:28). What do you think they might have had in mind?

What would that same question sound like today in the context of the local church?

What we need to “do” is believe. In practical terms, what does this mean?