

INTRODUCTION

Does anyone enjoy being tested?

As John continues to identify witnesses who testify about who the Christ really is, Jesus takes opportunity to challenge the crowd as well as his disciples. Furthermore, the crowd eventually see how the signs point to Jesus being the predicted prophet of Deut 18:18 & determine therefore to make him king. Jesus resists the temptation to be crowned early (because he is the king don't forget) & chooses to fulfil other prophecies & his primary role at this point, which is to head toward a Roman cross in Jerusalem to die as the lamb of God for the sins of the world. First the cross then the crown.

1. Jesus Miraculously Multiplies Food (v1-16)

Jesus has many followers at this point, but most of them are only hanging on because he is meeting their physical needs, in the last chapter healing for the sick and today food for the hungry in miraculous displays of power.

- i. v2 says the people were following Jesus because of what he was providing, how would you articulate your reasons for following Jesus?
- ii. Knowing that he only had one more year to live (v4 describes the 2nd to last passover for Jesus) Jesus wasn't thinking about his own life let alone his own needs (v5) Discuss the issue of selfishness & how it manifests itself in your life on a moment by moment / day to day / year by year basis.
- iii. Considering Phillip's response to Jesus' test in v7 (a) What do you trust in when it comes to provision for you & or your family (b) consider Eccl 10:19 '...money answers everything...' in the context of the whole verse & otherwise.
- iv. Twice in chapter 6 we see The Lord Jesus give thanks (v11 & 23) Discuss practical ways that we can show our gratitude to God for his gracious provision.

2. Jesus Miraculously Manipulates Water (v17-21)

At a time when his disciples were celebrating the most memorable passover feast in their experience, they are now prevented from crossing the sea by this ferocious stormy test & unlike our previous section, Jesus isn't present & 'seems' to have abandoned them!! This ought to remind us of Israel at the Red sea crossing & Jesus doesn't walk *through* but on the water, then he caused everyone on the boat to move '*through*' the water to the other side in an extraordinary way.

- i. Discuss the purpose of John including this strange sign at this point in his narrative.
- ii. As God's people how do we respond to 'storms' that come into our lives, especially ones that seem to prevent us from moving forward in God's purposes?

SUMMARY

The evidence is overwhelmingly stacked up as it presents Jesus as the prophet promised by Moses, it's no great surprise that all four gospel writers include this miracle highlighting it's great significance. May we never become familiar with these stories at just surface levels & as a result miss the deeper message & meaning.

PRAYER

- Thanksgiving for God's gracious gift of Jesus as prophet, our essential provisions & protection from danger.
- Petition for grace to see God's purpose for our lives & strength to pick up & carry our cross like Christ.