

## WHO IS THIS?

### John 6:1-21

I came across a man that I'd like you to meet.

His name is Philip.

You may have heard of him--His story is spread through John's gospel. "Jesus found me as he was gathering his disciples, & called me to follow Him. I was so impressed with Him that I went to find my friend Nathanael & tell him about Jesus.

As we followed Him, we watched Him do incredible things.

We went with Him to a wedding where He turned plain water into the best wine we'd ever tasted.

We heard about a man who came to Jesus asking Him to heal his son. Jesus healed him without leaving us to go where the boy was.

Then we watched him heal a man who had been lying sick beside the Bethesda pool at the Sheep Gate for 38 years.

It seemed strange that He would do it on the Sabbath, but who were we to argue with Him when God was doing such incredible things through His power.

Everyday He did more miracles, & a great crowd began to follow Him, because He was healing sick people everywhere.

These signs kept showing that Jesus is God's Son--& that we should trust Him to receive eternal life.

### FEEDING OF 5,000 6:1-15

Then He performed a different kind of sign.

In less than 24 hours He performed 2 signs that seemed to be directed more at us, than at the crowd.

It was becoming apparent that **Jesus was attracting the crowds because of His miracles, rather than because of His person.**

One day He went up on the side of the mountain to sit with His disciples--he liked to sit around with us and teach us about life.

That day He looked up and saw a swarm of people headed our way.

He turned to me & asked: "*Where shall we get bread for all these people?*"

I wanted to respond: "*How should I know? Where could we find enough bread for a crowd like this?*"

I knew we didn't have enough funds for a meal like that. It would take 8 months' wages to buy enough for one bite each!

There were at least 5,000 *men*--that didn't include women & children.

I had the impression *HE* already knew what He was going to do! So I just waited to see what kind of plan He'd come up with.

Andrew discovered a boy with 5 small loaves of barley bread and 2 small fishes. But then he looked up & realized the enormity of the crowd. That little bit wouldn't go very far!

Imagine, if you only fed the men, each would get 1/1000th of a *small* loaf (barely a crumb!), and 1/2500th of a *small* fish!

So Jesus did the logical thing. He told us to have the people sit down on the grass & feed them. We just looked at each other!

*You've got to be kidding!* But we knew Him too well for that!

Jesus thanked God for the food & started to distribute it.

By the time He was done, all the people had *as much as they wanted!*

**Jesus demonstrated that He is able to meet the needs of His people.**

Jesus had us gather up the left over bread scraps. When we were all done, there were *12 baskets full of left overs!*

Not only is Jesus able to meet our needs, **the excess leftovers demonstrate that He is able to provide MORE than we ask!**

When the people saw what Jesus did, that got people started talking about Who He is.

Everyone was talking about how anyone could do all the things He did!

They realized that He must be the prophet Moses told us about. They wanted to make Him *KING!*

Anyone who could provide all we need and more, is worthy to be our leader, and ought to be our King!

When they were about to crown Him King, He disappeared up to the mountain, alone, to pray.

Everytime people got excited about miracles...

Everytime they wanted to make Him king, *HE LEFT!*

He went off to the mountainside to be alone.

How would He ever become Messiah that way?

Everytime His followers sat down to talk about that day, we're always reminded of 2 important lessons we learned:

**JESUS IS ABLE TO PROVIDE EVERYTHING WE NEED, IN ABUNDANCE!**

Those who trust Him will never lack anything we need!

**JESUS CAN CONVERT THE LITTLE WE GIVE HIM INTO MORE THAN WE NEED!**

If we place what we have into His hands, He converts it to good use, to accomplish more than we ever dreamed!

### **WALKING ON WATER 6:16-21**

Then we went down to the lake and took the boat to the other side.

Jesus had told us to go on to the other side--He'd come later.

After dark, a strong wind blew up on the lake; it was really stormy.

The fishermen in our group didn't often become frightened in storms on the lake--they often blew up and they were used to them.

However, this storm was pretty frightening.

Then something happened that none of us had ever seen before.

It was terrifying.

In the middle of the storm, we looked out on the water, and we saw a ghost! It was coming right toward our boat!

We cried out in fear.

Suddenly, we heard a fami-liar voice, saying, "It is I."

He used those same words we heard Him say so often: "*I am!*"

It wasn't a ghost. It was Jesus! He was walking on the water.

Then He used another phrase we'd get used to hearing: "*Don't be afraid!*"

Peter asked the Lord if he could try it.

Jesus told him to come ahead.

It worked fine at first. Even Peter could walk on water, at the Lord's command--as long as he kept His eyes on Jesus.

But then, He began to focus his attention on the wind instead of on Jesus.

He became afraid, & started to sink.

Jesus had to take hold of Him.

As soon as they stepped into the boat, the storm died down we were on the shore.

At that point we were asking that same old question: "*Who is this?*"

**Jesus controls the elements, & forces of nature.**

Only 1 answer would do: We worshiped Him, *Truly you are the Son of God!*"

This was God Himself--& we knew it!

Since that time we've been through a lot of storms--both the literal kind like the storm that day, and the storms of life.

You know the ones I mean?

We've been through some pretty scary storms on the sea of Galilee.

The ones when the lighting flashed all around you, the wind wails, and the thunder pounds.

Huge waves make you wonder if the boat will make it to the other side!

But sometimes those storms pale alongside the storms of life.

In hard times, sometimes I've wished we only had the wind and the sea to deal with!

When life is hard & it's falling apart...

when we face financial crises...

when a member of the family is in trouble, or seriously ill...

...at times like that, the wind and the sea feel pretty calm.

At times like that, the lessons we learned in that storm continue to encourage me:

***JESUS IS AWARE OF THE STORMS WE'RE GOING THROUGH.***

***JESUS IS PRESENT WITH US IN THE MIDST OF THE STORMS OF LIFE.***

***JESUS IS ABLE TO DELIVER US FROM THE STORMS AND BRING PEACE.***

We need to learn to trust Him--don't focus on the storm--keep your eyes on Jesus!

**Who is He?**

**He is the Bread of Life**

If Philip were here this a.m. I believe He would come to you--as he went looking for Nathanael--

to urge *you* to trust Jesus, the Bread of Life, the Son of God.

John tells us: Set your heart on Jesus! Trust Him!

**Jesus is the Bread of Life--**

**He will satisfy our deepest longings**

Those who trust Him

are totally satisfied.

**He can calm the fiercest storms.**

He wants to give us eternal life, if we'll trust Him.