



INTRODUCTION / SYNOPSIS:

Chapter 6:1-14 This chapter reveals Jesus to be the Provision for every human and material need. Jesus, first demonstrated the truth, then He began to preach and teach it. Jesus being tired and weary from the pressure of facing the crowds day after day, He crossed over to the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias where the great multitude of people still followed. Why? Because the people saw with their own eyes His miracles. This is what Jesus had done for the diseased. Now, He then takes refuge in a mountain sitting with His disciples. The Passover season was near (6:1-4), a time when thousands of pilgrims flooded Jerusalem. Jesus seeing a great company of people still coming to Him, He uses this occasion to demonstrate three concerns:

1. Jesus' concern was meeting the needs of man, even the minutest need of missing a meal.
2. Jesus' concern was to test and strengthen the disciples' faith.

In Mark.6:35-36, the disciples wanted to send the crowd away. In Matt.15:23, they said get rid of them. Here in John 6 Jesus posed the question to Philip: *"Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?"* Philip quickly gives Him the financial assessment. This is pessimistic faith where you say show me the money or looking at resources available; and you feel that the problem is too big for God to move in or remove. Jesus wants to teach Philip and the rest of us that our financial resource is walking by faith, our only dependency (6:5-7). Our money will not keep us stable because after getting it, it is fleeting! Don't let your estimate of what can't be done keep you from depending on the One, that can do it all. God can do the miraculous. Trust Him to provide the resources.

So, in verse 8-9 Andrew speaks up about a little lad with five barley loaves of bread and two small fish. At least he was looking for a way out. But then he adds, *"but what are they among so many?"*(6:9). This is optimistic questioning faith; positive and hopeful yet he negates it with his question. You know how we do, we trust God in prayer, but we say the opposite of the Word in our conversation. Jesus didn't mince words but teaches what faith is; unswerving; unshakable, and unwavering. He tells the disciples to make the men sit down; a number of about **five thousand** (6:10). He took the loaves, **gave thanks** and **distributed them** to the disciples to give to the people. And likewise with the fish (6:11). It didn't say they didn't have enough or that they ran out. No, it said **"when they were filled"** (6:12) (so you know there was enough). The disciples were to *"gather up the fragments that remained and nothing was to be lost."* It would be used at some future date. Although Jesus used the help and aid of His disciples, the miracle was always in His hands.

- He multiplied the food.
- They passed it out.
- And as they gathered the fragments, it came to twelve baskets.

There is a lesson in leftovers. Think about it. Don't waste God's blessing, whatever it may be. The people saw and believed Him to be the "prophet that should come into the world", but they were thinking of an earthly, materialistic king; a Messiah who could meet both their personal and community or national needs (6:13-14).

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

I. LEAVING WITHOUT JESUS JOHN 6:15-17

6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone. Jesus had sensed the intention of the men who had seen the miracle and said, *"This is of a truth that prophet which should come into the world."* Jesus sensed that they would come and take Him by force, so, Jesus departed into the mountain alone.

6:16 And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea,— In this verse, evening has come, and the disciples have gone down to the sea. In Mark.6:45-46, Jesus told the disciples to get into the ship and go to the other side; that is, away from the crowd. He was going to send the crowd away and withdraw to pray.

6:17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. This paints the picture of the disciples getting into the boat without Jesus. After entering into the ship, they go toward Capernaum, and it becomes dark. Jesus had gone into the mountain to be alone.

II. DESPERATELY NEEDING JESUS JOHN 6:18-19

6:18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.

3. Now, Jesus' concern was to meet the overpowering need of calming a storm, Jh.6:16-21.

The wind blew strongly upon that ship. This was one of the times they desperately needed Jesus. A storm arose upon the sea that was unexpected! As disciples of Jesus we have to be prepared to enter and go through the unexpected.

6:19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. The great and violent storm had caught the disciples by surprise, and they had rowed about three or four miles out, but the storm had pushed them farther out into the middle of the sea. Being tired, they see Jesus walking on the sea coming near the ship. This caused them to be gripped with fear. Yes, He was actually walking on water.

1. Being in the dark will cause fear.
2. Being without Jesus will cause fear.
3. Being caught in a great and violent storm will cause fear.
4. Being tired and gripped with impending death will cause fear.

Remember they were physically exhausted and mentally drained. And when you're like that, you sometimes can't think straight, and fear will begin to take over or faith will rise to the occasion. The answer to fear is Jesus Himself. They needed Him and He was right there before them.

III. GLADLY ACCEPTING JESUS JOHN 6:20-21

6:20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. The Word of Jesus delivers them from fear. In order to ease their minds, He said, *"It is I; be not afraid."* "It is I" (*eimi*) is the one word in the Greek which is simply "I AM." Jesus was saying, "I AM" has come—fear not. He was reminding the disciples who He was, the Son of God Himself. He possessed all power; therefore, there was no need to fear. He is "The Water Walker!"

6:21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

1. Receiving the presence of Christ delivers from fear. Hearing His Word is not enough; you have to willingly receive Christ into your life. Deliverance came to the disciples only after they had received Jesus into the ship.
2. The results of receiving Christ were twofold: (1) deliverance from fear and (2) the calming of the storm. Jesus Christ gives the strength to row through all the storms of life. He has the power to erase fear and calm any storm!

SUMMARY:

Five thousand plus people were fed and the following day the people were still following after Jesus. Jesus had sensed the intention of the men who had seen the miracle and said, *"This is of a truth that prophet which should come into the world."* Jesus sensed their intention that they would come and take Him by force, so Jesus departed into the mountain alone away from all. They didn't know His kingdom was not of this world. Well, that evening the disciples got into a ship heading toward Capernaum and Jesus did not go with them, and an unexpected storm arose on the sea. It had become dark and Jesus was still alone in the mountain **(6:15-17)**.

There arose *a great storm* in the sea. They had rowed about three or four miles out, but this storm had pushed them farther out into the middle of the sea, and it had caught the disciples by surprise. Being tired, they see Jesus walking on the sea coming near the ship. This caused them to be gripped with fear **(6:18-19)**.

Jesus let them know that it was He who was in their midst and to not be afraid. He brought peace to them when He said, *"It is I; be not afraid."* He was reminding the disciples who He was, the Son of God Himself. He possessed all power; therefore, there was no need to fear. Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land where they were going **(6:20-21)**.