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Late in the day (**Mk. 6:35**) or as the day was ending (**Lk. 9:12**). **:5 Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"** "Rather than considering the crowd a cause of unwelcome disturbance, Jesus was filled with compassion for them." Philip came from nearby Bethsaida (**1:44**), so he would have local knowledge. An artos was flat/round, resembling a pancake.

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**:9** You can see Andrew figuring out how much food could be found in this desert place. Barley loaves and fish: the cheap food of the common people. 5 small, flat barley cakes, made of the cheapest grain available, more like a flattened dinner roll, and 2 small fish, like sardines. "Five, only Five! Two, only Two! For this huge and hungry crowd. What are these for so many?"

**:10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down."** **Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down (reclined), in number about 5000.** "Be seated in groups of 50 and 100." Passover was in late March/early April, so there was plenty of grass. Like so many garden-beds (**Mk. 6:39-40**). The men numbered 5000. The number of women and children was not included (**Mt. 14:21**). Probably between 10-15,000. Notice, although faith in what God could supply was lacking for the disciples, they still followed their Lord's instructions.

**:11 Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted.** The miracle took place in our Lord's hands (Mark uses the imperfect tense: "He kept on breaking the loaves and giving to the disciples."). Each person was satisfied. Begin with what you have.

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**:14 Therefore when the people saw the sign (attesting miracle) which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."** The Prophet: see **Dt. 18:15, Jn. 1:21, Acts 3:20-22, 7:37**. The Prophet that Moses predicted would provide for them; they were willing to accept Jesus as that Prophet. The Jewish people desired a Messiah who would deliver them from Roman oppression and meet their physical rather than spiritual needs. It was an earthly, military, political Messiah whom they wanted to see in Jesus. He was another (like Moses) who had fed them when there seemed to be no resources. "He's the Prophet; let's make Him King!"

**Read :15. So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.** When the crowd reached the proper conclusion that Jesus was the Prophet, they immediately reacted in a very improper way. Harpazo, to seize, to carry off by force (also see **10:12,28,29**, snatch). The crowd was clamoring to make Jesus their wonder bread-king! They wished to use Him for their own purposes and to mold Him according to their own dreams. This was not faith but unbelief. When this 'bread-king' came to them, with the challenge to follow Him as the Bread of Life, they wanted nothing to do with Him. **See 6:26-66.**

Yes, Passover for them was a celebration of deliverance, a time when God had done amazing things. “Deliver us from the Romans like Moses delivered us from Egypt.” “The desire of the multitude to make Jesus king marks both the height of His popularity in Galilee and the moment of decision for Him.” Yes, He was born a King, the Jewish Messiah, but this was not the Father’s path for Him. Jesus rejected the world’s version of kingship as a temptation of the devil (Mt. 4:8-11). He sent His disciples away by boat (Mk. 6:45) and dispersed the crowd (Mt. 14:22-23, Mk. 6:45-46). Then He went to pray.

“What’s Your will, Father?” “At the moment when the cry ‘Make Jesus King’ is rending the air, Jesus abruptly withdraws, leaving both the crowds and the disciples with no visible object for their enthusiasm.” He will be King, but it will be on His Father’s terms. And on that scene of disappointed hope, night falls. Jesus is alone with His Father. **Mk. 1:35-38. Talking with and listening to His Father was important to Him throughout His earthly ministry.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> sign is in **6:16-21**, pointing to Jesus as the master of nature. He walks on water, a sign for His disciples. In **:22f**, Jesus claims He is the ‘Bread of Life!’ and gives 1000s an opportunity to respond to Who He is. Will they believe or reject? **Read Mt. 14:22-33 and Mk. 6:45-51.**

**Read :16-21. :16-18 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, :17 & after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. :18 The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.**

**:16-17** The disciples, having been ordered by Jesus to go before Him to the other side (Mt. 14:22), went down to the sea. Their original destination was Bethsaida (Mk. 6:45). Darkness had already fallen before the disciples began to cross the lake. It was Passover time so it was the time of the full moon (6:4).

**:18** “The Sea of Galilee creates ideal conditions for the sudden, violent storms for which the Sea of Galilee is notorious. The cooler air rushes down the slopes and strikes the surface of the lake with great force.” The sea was getting rough, or was rising, as a strong wind was blowing. They were heading into the wind (Mk. 6:47-48); consequently, they made little progress.

“Despite being battered by the waves (Mt. 14:24), the disciples continued straining at the oars (Mk. 6:48), desperately trying to reach the safety of the western shore.” The disciples had left between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. (6:16), and it was now the 4<sup>th</sup> watch (3:00 to 6:00 a.m. Mt. 14:25 and Mk. 6:48)

**:19 Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened.**

“Anxiety, doubt, & confusion assail us when Jesus leaves us seemingly alone in the wilderness and the storms begin to blow.” Then they discerned what they thought was a ghost walking on water. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> sign (water to wine, a boy healed, feeding the 5000) that He was God’s sent One (20:30-31).

The wind which was holding them back was not holding back that approaching Figure. Not surprisingly, they were frightened, and cried out in terror, “It is a ghost!” (Mt. 14:26, Mk. 6:49). **Mk. 6:48** says Jesus was moving rapidly.

At the height of their fear, they recognized Jesus and heard His words. Who

then is this? **See Mk. 4:41. :21a So they were willing to receive Him into the boat.** Is this faith? Peter could not wait for the Lord to get in the boat (**read Mt. 14:28-31**). “When Jesus along with a soaking wet and thoroughly chastened Peter got into the boat,” the wind immediately stopped (**Mt. 14:32, Mk. 6:51**). Those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!” (**Mt. 14:33**). Mark says they were utterly astonished. **And immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.** As soon as Jesus stepped in, the boat arrived at its precise destination!

The writer John is concerned with only 1 thing: The Person of Jesus, continually bringing us face to face with the only One who can transform our lives and set us free. Keeping laws or finding the right place to worship doesn’t do this nor does believing in the ‘signs’ but not the Person.

“Jesus, You can come through the darkest night and over the most troubled sea into the boat of our lives. May the eyes of our faith be fixed upon You.”

Practical Ways to **Apply** God’s Word:

1. Start with **Jesus (Mt. 11:28-30)** and fix your focus on Him (**Heb. 12:1-3**).
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6. Be careful who you listen to and what you watch and read, what you’re continually thinking about. Choose & be a good role model. Be sure there’s a steady input from God’s Word. Pray without ceasing. Realize there’s a glorious, certain, guaranteed future for you and every other Christian.

Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a**). Lessons you learned? Applications you made? Questions you have? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus?

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**Read 6:1-15.** This event probably took place a year after the events of **chapter 5**. During that interval, Jesus continued ministering in Galilee (as **Mt. 4:23-14:12, Mk. 1:14-6:30, and Lk. 4:14-9:10** make clear).

**:1-15. :1 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee**, in the general vicinity of Bethsaida (**Lk. 9:10**). The disciples had just returned from a missionary tour and needed rest and an opportunity to debrief with Jesus. There were times when Jesus desired to withdraw from the crowds and lead His disciples into a deeper understanding of Himself. Jesus and the disciples crossed the lake (7 x 14 miles) by boat (**Mk. 6:32**).

**:2 A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs (attesting miracles) which He was performing on those who were sick.** The large crowd was constantly and habitually following Him. They hastened round the top of the lake by land. It was around 9-10 miles. They were impressed by a worker of miracles. Yet the primary mission of Jesus was not physical but spiritual.

**:3 Then Jesus went up on the mountain** (probably Golan Heights area), **and there He sat down with His disciples.** He spent the day teaching the crowd. He also healed their sick (**Mt. 14:14**) and began speaking to them about the kingdom of God (**Lk. 9:11**). Mark says that Jesus was moved with compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd (**Mk. 6:34**).

**:4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near.** Passover a reminder of God's delivering the Jews from their slavery in Egypt. It was in late March or early April each year. The 1<sup>st</sup> Passover was in **2:13-25**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in **5:1-3,5-9a**, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Passover, and the 4<sup>th</sup> in **18:28-32**. Beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> year of ministry.

Late in the day (**Mk. 6:35**) or as the day was ending (**Lk. 9:12**). **:5 Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"** "Rather than considering the crowd a cause of unwelcome disturbance, Jesus was filled with compassion for them." Philip came from nearby Bethsaida (**1:44**), so he would have local knowledge. An artos was flat/round, resembling a pancake.

**:6 This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.** This was a pop quiz, a predicament that had no human solution. Jesus knows what He will do. The question is put to the disciples to test their faith in God (**James. 1:2-4, 1 Pet. 1:6-7**). Everything has purpose!

**:7 Philip answered Him, "200 denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for**

**them, for everyone to receive a little.”** 1 denarius=a day’s wages for a common laborer. 200 denarii = 8 months’ wages. In **Mk. 6:38**, Jesus says, **“Go look!”**

**:8-9 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, :9 “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?”** The faith of the rest of the disciples was not any stronger than that of Philip. They all calculated, but failed to exercise faith.

**:9** You can see Andrew figuring out how much food could be found in this desert place. Barley loaves and fish: the cheap food of the common people. 5 small, flat barley cakes, made of the cheapest grain available, more like a flattened dinner roll, and 2 small fish, like sardines. “Five, only Five! Two, only Two! For this huge and hungry crowd. What are these for so many?”

**:10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down (reclined), in number about 5000.** “Be seated in groups of 50 and 100.” Passover was in late March/early April, so there was plenty of grass. Like so many garden-beds (**Mk. 6:39-40**). The men numbered 5000. The number of women and children was not included (**Mt. 14:21**). Probably between 10-15,000. Notice, although faith in what God could supply was lacking for the disciples, they still followed their Lord’s instructions.

**:11 Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted.** The miracle took place in our Lord’s hands (Mark uses the imperfect tense: “He kept on breaking the loaves and giving to the disciples.”). Each person was satisfied. Begin with what you have.

**:12-13 When they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost.” :13 So they gathered them up, and filled 12 baskets with fragments from the 5 barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.** There was a vast surplus.

**:14 Therefore when the people saw the sign (attesting miracle) which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”** The Prophet: see **Dt. 18:15, Jn. 1:21, Acts 3:20-22, 7:37**. The Prophet that Moses predicted would provide for them; they were willing to accept Jesus as that Prophet. The Jewish people desired a Messiah who would deliver them from Roman oppression and meet their physical rather than spiritual needs. It was an earthly, military, political Messiah whom they wanted to see in Jesus. He was another (like Moses) who had fed them when there seemed to be no resources. “He’s the Prophet; let’s make Him King!”

**Read :15. So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.** When the crowd reached the proper conclusion that Jesus was the Prophet, they immediately reacted in a very improper way. Harpazo, to seize, to carry off by force (also see **10:12,28,29**, snatch). The crowd was clamoring to make Jesus their wonder bread-king! They wished to use Him for their own purposes and to mold Him according to their own dreams. This was not faith but unbelief. When this ‘bread-king’ came to them, with the challenge to follow Him as the Bread of Life, they wanted nothing to do with Him. **See 6:26-66.**

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Yes, Passover for them was a celebration of deliverance, a time when God had done amazing things. “Deliver us from the Romans like Moses delivered us from Egypt.” “The desire of the multitude to make Jesus king marks both the height of His popularity in Galilee and the moment of decision for Him.” Yes, He was born a King, the Jewish Messiah, but this was not the Father’s path for Him. Jesus rejected the world’s version of kingship as a temptation of the devil (Mt. 4:8-11). He sent His disciples away by boat (Mk. 6:45) and dispersed the crowd (Mt. 14:22-23, Mk. 6:45-46). Then He went to pray.

“What’s Your will, Father?” “At the moment when the cry ‘Make Jesus King’ is rending the air, Jesus abruptly withdraws, leaving both the crowds and the disciples with no visible object for their enthusiasm.” He will be King, but it will be on His Father’s terms. And on that scene of disappointed hope, night falls. Jesus is alone with His Father. **Mk. 1:35-38. Talking with and listening to His Father was important to Him throughout His earthly ministry.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> sign is in **6:16-21**, pointing to Jesus as the master of nature. He walks on water, a sign for His disciples. In **:22f**, Jesus claims He is the ‘Bread of Life!’ and gives 1000s an opportunity to respond to Who He is. Will they believe or reject? **Read Mt. 14:22-33 and Mk. 6:45-51.**

**Read :16-21. :16-18 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, :17 & after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. :18 The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.**

**:16-17** The disciples, having been ordered by Jesus to go before Him to the other side (Mt. 14:22), went down to the sea. Their original destination was Bethsaida (Mk. 6:45). Darkness had already fallen before the disciples began to cross the lake. It was Passover time so it was the time of the full moon (6:4).

**:18** “The Sea of Galilee creates ideal conditions for the sudden, violent storms for which the Sea of Galilee is notorious. The cooler air rushes down the slopes and strikes the surface of the lake with great force.” The sea was getting rough, or was rising, as a strong wind was blowing. They were heading into the wind (Mk. 6:47-48); consequently, they made little progress.

“Despite being battered by the waves (Mt. 14:24), the disciples continued straining at the oars (Mk. 6:48), desperately trying to reach the safety of the western shore.” The disciples had left between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. (6:16), and it was now the 4<sup>th</sup> watch (3:00 to 6:00 a.m. Mt. 14:25 and Mk. 6:48)

**:19 Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened.**

“Anxiety, doubt, & confusion assail us when Jesus leaves us seemingly alone in the wilderness and the storms begin to blow.” Then they discerned what they thought was a ghost walking on water. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> sign (water to wine, a boy healed, feeding the 5000) that He was God’s sent One (20:30-31).

The wind which was holding them back was not holding back that approaching Figure. Not surprisingly, they were frightened, and cried out in terror, “It is a ghost!” (Mt. 14:26, Mk. 6:49). **Mk. 6:48** says Jesus was moving rapidly.

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The writer John is concerned with only 1 thing: The Person of Jesus, continually bringing us face to face with the only One who can transform our lives and set us free. Keeping laws or finding the right place to worship doesn’t do this nor does believing in the ‘signs’ but not the Person.

“Jesus, You can come through the darkest night and over the most troubled sea into the boat of our lives. May the eyes of our faith be fixed upon You.”

Practical Ways to **Apply** God’s Word:

1. Start with **Jesus (Mt. 11:28-30)** and fix your focus on Him (**Heb. 12:1-3**).
2. Practice ECRAT: Examine, Confess, Review, Allow, and Thank.
3. As part of your immediate family, you have a responsible role to play as a husband, wife, parent, child (see **Mt. 19:3-6, Eph. 5:18-6:4, Col. 3:18-21**). Be sure you’re remaining true to who God has made you.
4. Then as part of the Family of God, pray for, love, be hospitable to, and serve one another, using your Spirit-given gifts (**1 Pet. 4:7-11**). Consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24-25).
5. Then as an individual Christian: **Rom. 12:9-21, 1 Cor. 13:1-8a, Eph. 4:20-6:18, and 1 Pet. 2:11-3:17** spell out how Jesus will live out His life and love uniquely through you as you trust Him, rest in Him.
6. Be careful who you listen to and what you watch and read, what you’re continually thinking about. Choose & be a good role model. Be sure there’s a steady input from God’s Word. Pray without ceasing. Realize there’s a glorious, certain, guaranteed future for you and every other Christian.

Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a**). Lessons you learned? Applications you made? Questions you have? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus?

:19 “The fear of the apparition was greater than the terror of the storm.”

:20 They were actually perfectly safe, for upon the hill the Lord was interceding for them.

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