

John 6

1 .) In the Old Testament it is called the "sea of Chinnereth" ([Num 34:11](#); [Jos 12:3](#); [Jos 13:27](#)), as is supposed from its harp-like shape. (2). The "lake of Gennesareth" once by Luke ([Luke 5:1](#)), from the flat district lying on its west coast. (3.) John ([John 6:1](#); [John 21:1](#)) calls it the "sea of Tiberias" (q.v.). The modern Arabs retain this name, Bahr Tabariyeh.

This lake is 12 1/2 miles long, and from 4 to 7 1/2 broad. Its surface is 682 feet below the level of the Mediterranean. Its depth is from 80 to 160 feet. The Jordan enters it 10 1/2 miles below the southern extremity of the Huleh Lake, or about 26 1/2 miles from its source. In this distance of 26 1/2 miles there is a fall in the river of 1,682 feet, or of more than 60 feet to the mile. It is 27 miles east of the Mediterranean, and about 60 miles north-east of Jerusalem. It is of an oval shape, and abounds in fish.

—Easton's Illustrated Dictionary

Mark 6:31-35 Jesus was trying to get away from the crowds to rest, yet He has compassion on them.

2 The miraculous signs excited the people. They followed to see more and to hear what the "prophet" was teaching. People are searching for answers to life. Matthew 12:15 Many passages speak of healing ALL the sick.

3 – 5 Philip was from a town about 9 miles away. If anyone would know where to buy food it would be Philip. Jesus is contrasting the inability of man and the all-sufficiency of God. He is also demonstrating his compassion in regard to our daily needs. See 4:35 In Luke's version, Jesus tells the disciples to feed the crowd.

6-7 When Jesus asked Philip where they could buy a great amount of bread, Philip started assessing the probable cost. Jesus wanted to teach him that financial resources are not the most important ones. We can limit what God does in us by assuming what is and is not possible. Is there some impossible task that you believe God wants you to do? Don't let your estimate of what can't be done keep you from taking on the task. God can do the miraculous; trust him to provide the resources. —Life Application Bible Notes

Do you think the Lord sometimes tests us knowing already what He will do? Why? Deuteronomy 8:2, 16

8 – 9 We can learn a lot from this little boy. He offered what he had. When we are willing to give the little we have, our ability, our time, our energy, God can do the miraculous with it. Never refrain from giving because of your insufficiency. Give with the expectation that God can multiply and bless it.

2 Kings 4:42-44 There is an Old Testament precedent for this miracle.

10 - 13 Five thousand men plus women and children! (Matthew 14:21) This mass feeding was to the Children of Israel. Many think that the feeding of the 4000 was to mostly Gentiles. The 12 baskets would represent more than sufficient sustenance for the tribes of Israel. The seven baskets of the four thousand would be enough for the world. Jesus is more than sufficient for our needs, yet nothing is wasted. 2Kings 4:2-7; 2Chronicles 25:9; Philippians 4:19
Just because God provides abundantly does not mean we should waste the extra. The extra is there for a purpose. You never hear what happened to it. They didn't take it with them, so it must have been given to the needy.

14 – 15 The people were convinced that Jesus was the prophet Moses had predicted in Deuteronomy 18:15. They wanted to make Him king. Their idea was for Him to lead them against Herod and Rome. Even the disciples did not yet understand that Jesus' kingdom was not of this world. See 2:24-25 and Hebrews 4:13 Though seemingly good, their intentions would result in evil. Jesus is to be the King, but not in the method and timing of man.

16 –18 Jesus went to pray. He sent the disciples on ahead. (Mark 6:45) That lake can have sudden winds. My boat ride was cancelled due to one such wind. About half way to their destination Jesus came to them. Matthew 14:24; Job 9:8

19-20 It was out of their realm of experience. Since they thought of the lake as the Abyss, someone walking on that water at night would be frightening. Jesus always tells us not to fear. If we know He is present we should have no fear. Perfect love casts out all fear. Revelation 1:17-18; Isaiah 43:1-2
John doesn't tell about Peter getting out of the boat. Matthew 14:28-31

21 Immediately. The rest of the journey happened instantly?

22 – 24 Did someone bring them news, or is the mention of the boats just the provision of transportation to follow Jesus? Mark 1:37