



# Chapter 6 – Part 1

- Feeding of the 5,000
- Jesus Walks on Water

[darrylmckinnon@yahoo.com](mailto:darrylmckinnon@yahoo.com)

## John 6:1-15

# 4th SIGN - Feeding of the 5,000

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- Time Gap of many months between chapter 5 and 6.
- John 6:1 indicates this was just before Passover, but 5:1 said that was just before an unnamed feast (Tabernacles) which is 6 months prior.
- During the time interval, the Synoptics fill in the events (Matt. 5-14; Mark 3-6) and the many miracles performed.
- Matthew and Mark both describe the two feedings while Luke and John only describe the feeding of 5,000.
- Jesus specifically refers to the two feedings detailing some of the major differences between them (Matthew 16:9-10; Mark 8:18-20), eliminating any argument that there was only 1 feeding.

## John 6:1-15

# Feeding of the 5,000

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- Jesus now begins to more clearly **reveal who He is** with this miracle (the **only miracle** along with the resurrection that is **repeated in all 4 gospels**, and His most spectacularly visible miracle) followed by the miracle of walking on the water, with prominent Exodus parallels.
- Of the **two feeding miracles**, one is in **Jewish territory** and one in **Gentile territory**, and this one is **putting the emphasis on Jesus as the Redeemer of Israel in contrast to Herod**.
- Despite the crowd of 5,000, **Jesus is primarily teaching the 12 disciples (Faith, Compassion, Who He is)**, and these following miracles almost seem deliberately set up to **function like parables**, showing that the feeding miracle has a meaning which must be understood (Mark 6:51-52) in order to understand the next.

## John 6:1-15

# Jesus vs. Moses – Two Redeemers

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- The Exodus was a revelation of God as Redeemer and **Moses was chosen to physically redeem** the Hebrews.
- Faith in God was the basis of Moses' defiance of Pharaoh.
- **Moses** was a **“type”** of Christ (Heb 3; 8-10)
- Moses led God's people out of slavery, and performed the **miracle of parting the Red Sea** to escape.
- Moses gave the Israelites God's Law and mediated the covenant between God and man, but this covenant was temporal and conditional.
- God miraculously fed the Israelites mana from heaven for 40 years. <https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Moses.html>

## John 6:1-15

# Jesus is the Redeemer from Sin

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## Moses Promised another Redeemer; Jesus Christ

- **Deut. 18:15** “The LORD your **God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst**, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,” (Israel expected the Messiah to be like a super–Moses and to do similar things, i.e. Mana, Red Sea, Covenants, etc.)
- **Luke 24:44** “Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, **that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.*”**
- **John 6:14** <sup>14</sup> Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

# Jesus is the Redeemer from Sin

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- Moses was a **Physical Redeemer** from **Slavery of Egypt**
- Jesus Christ was a **Spiritual Redeemer** from **Slavery of Sin**

# Meaning of Redemption

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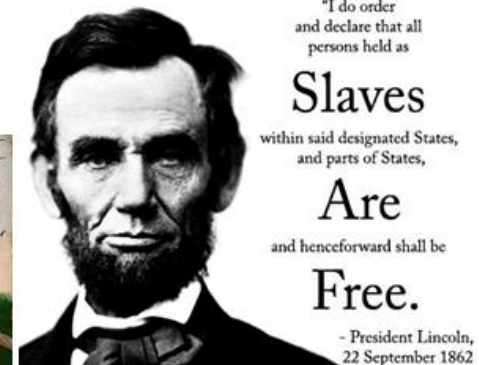
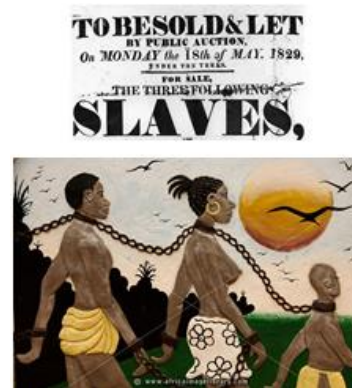
- **REDEEM** means “to buy out.” The term was used specifically in reference to the **purchase of a slave’s freedom**.
- God has purchased our freedom, and we are no longer in bondage to sin or to the Old Testament law.
- Related to redemption is the word **RANSOM**. Jesus paid the price for our release from sin and its punishment.
  - Jesus’ death was in exchange for our life. **Redemption is only possible through faith in the shed blood of Jesus.**
- Everyone is in need of redemption because “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23). Christ’s redemption has freed us from guilt, and makes us righteous in God’s eyes.
- Redemption results in forgiveness of sin, eternal life, righteousness, free from the law’s curse, reconciled to God.

# Romans 3:24

“Being  
**justified**  
**freely** by  
His **grace**  
through the  
**redemption**  
that is in  
**Christ**  
**Jesus:**”



**Ransom:** The price paid to buy someone back (the price of redemption – Mark 10:45 – we had a debt that we could not pay, and we did not deserve it, but Jesus paid the ransom price for us through His blood)



**Ransom:** Referred to the price of a slave in Jesus' time



## John 6:1-15

# Redeemer is a Sheppard

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- Moses asked God to provide a successor to lead Israel - Joshua (**Num. 27:16-18**),
- Joshua pointed to a Messiah (**Deut. 18:15, 34:9-12**), the Messiah was pictured as a shepherd leading a flock (**Is. 40:9-11** “He will feed His flock like a shepherd”).
- The failure of Israel's leaders led Micaiah in 2 Kings 22:17 to describe Israel as “**like sheep without a shepherd**”

John 6:1-15

## Redeemer is a Sheppard who Provides Bread for His Sheep

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- Mark tells us that Jesus saw Israel “**like sheep without a shepherd**” meaning they were **spiritually vulnerable**.

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- **Mark 6:34**
  - <sup>4</sup> And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because **they were like sheep not having a shepherd...** <sup>37</sup> But He answered and said to them, “You give them something to eat.”
    - **Immediately before this in Mark 6, is the story of John the Baptist’s beheading, where Herod is portrayed as the weak, prideful, glutenous Sheppard of Israel at a feast.**
- **1 Kings 22:17**
  - <sup>17</sup> Then he said, “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, **as sheep that have no shepherd**. And the LORD said, ‘These have no master.’

## Redeemer is a Sheppard who Provides Bread for His Sheep

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- **Ezek. 34:1-10; 34:23**
- <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, **prophesy against the shepherds of Israel...**” **Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?** <sup>3</sup> You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, *but* you do not feed the flock... **(King Herod?)**
- <sup>7</sup> “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:...because *there was* no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock” — ...for I will deliver My flock from their mouths...

Prophecy  
of Jesus  
Feeding the  
5,000

- <sup>23</sup> **I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd.**

## John 6:1-15

# Jesus is the Promised Redeemer

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- **Jesus shows us He is the Redeemer** by performing miracles reminiscent of the Exodus by:
  - As the “**Good Shepherd**” teaching and leading His people,
  - **Miraculous bread like manna** as in the time of Moses (Ex 16) & prophecy (Is. 55:1-3)
  - **Crossing the sea** as in the time of Moses & “**passing by**” in glory.
- The disciples fail to recognize Jesus as Redeemer because they are “hard-hearted” (Mark 6:52), fundamentally the same state as Jesus’ enemies.

John 6:1-15

## Redeemer is a Sheppard who Provides Bread for His Sheep Gospel of Mark

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- In view of the parallels implied in 6: 1-29 between John & Elijah, Herod & Ahab, Herodias & Jezebel, **Jesus' words in Mark 6:34** (sheep not having a shepherd) **become a judgement on Herod and the "chief men of Galilee" as the false shepherds of an apostate and idolatrous nation.**
- Jesus' questions to the disciples shortly before He enabled Peter to recognize Him as the Messiah ("You are the Christ" **Mark 8:29**)
- **Mark 8:17-19** shows that the **MAIN CLUE** to His identity as **Redeemer** was the **provision of bread** in the two feeding miracles. (like the manna in Ex. 16:32, and predicted in Is. 51:14 ; also Elisha's multiplying 20 loaves into 200 in 2 Kings 4:42-44 – This is the One greater than Moses & Elijah! (Heb 3:1-6))
- Mark 8:17-19<sup>17</sup> But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? **Do you not yet perceive nor understand?** Is your heart still hardened? <sup>18</sup> Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? **And do you not remember?** <sup>19</sup> **When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand**, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?"

## John 6:1-15

# Feeding of the 5,000

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- Mark goes out of his way to show that the feeding of the 5,000 was really miraculous:
  - Disciples were told to check how much bread was available and the cost was noted (200 denarii was about 8 month's wages),
  - After all 5,000 men had eaten (20,000 including women & children), there was more left over than the original amount,
- When Jesus says “**You give them something to eat**”, He wants them to **recognize their inadequacy, and that He is the prophesied Redeemer.**
- Despite the brevity of Mark, he inserts many vivid details omitted in the other gospels (a hallmark of an eye-witness), such as:
  - Jesus made them sit in groups of **50 & 100** (as did Moses in Ex. 18:24-26)
  - Sit on the “**green grass**”, providing both a clear picture of the scene
- **Question: When you pray before a meal, do you really think deep that this meal is not the result of you, but the Lord is the giver of all good gifts?**

## Similarities of the Feeding of 5,000 & 4,000

• Large Crowd	• People Sit Down
• Dessert Place/Wilderness Area	• Thanks Given & Bread Broken
• Jesus' Compassion	• Food Distributed by the 12
• Loaves Counted	• All Eat & are "Satisfied"
• A Few Loaves & Fish	• Left Over Pieces Collected
• No Way to Get More	• Departure by Boat

## Differences of the Feeding of 5,000 & 4,000

Feeding of 5,000	Feeding of 4,000
• In <b>Jewish</b> Territory	• In <b>Gentile</b> Territory
• After 1 Day	• After 3 Days (foreshadow of the cross?)
• 5 Loaves & 2 Fish	• 7 Loaves & a Few Fish
• Compassion Leads to <b>Teaching</b>	• Compassion Leads to <b>Feeding</b>
• Disciples Identify Need	• Jesus Identifies Need
• Jesus Gets them to Admit Inadequacy	• They Volunteer their Inadequacy
• Green Grass & Groups Mentioned	• Green Grass & Groups Not Mentioned
• Small, Jewish Baskets	• Large, Gentile Baskets
• 12 Baskets of Leftovers	• 7 Baskets of Leftovers

## Mark 6:37

# “You Give Them Something to Eat”

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- A whole world is starving, not for physical bread, but the Bread of Life!
- Jesus had compassion on them because there were perishing...**do you?**
- Compassion is love in action...**are you telling others about the Bread of Life?**
- You say, but I can only do so much for the lost with my limited resources or your difficulties...**There is nothing Jesus cannot do, and if He asks us to do it, then it can be done.**
- There was an equal distribution – it was systematic...**do you spend lots of time with only Christians, or a lot of time trying to convince a rejecting unbeliever to believe** – Jesus gave each person an equal amount of bread, and if they rejected it, He moved on.
- The primary mission of the church is to evangelize and tell others about the Good News of the Gospel through printed materials (tracts and Bibles) or in person.
- Go two by two as Jesus’ instructed and **“Give them Something to Eat”**
- **What are some ways the church could be evangelizing more today and how you contribute to these efforts?**



## John 6:15

# Crowd were going to Force Jesus to be King

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- **John 6:14-15** <sup>14</sup> Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, **“This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”** <sup>15</sup> Therefore when **Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king**, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.
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- Jesus’ supernatural knowledge displayed “perceived”
  - V.14 indicates the crowd thought He was the Prophet that was prophesied as the Messiah, but they only thought of the Davidic King (not the Suffering Servant Messiah of Is. 53) who could help them escape the oppression of Rome.
  - Mark’s account says “they were like sheep without a shepherd”, indicating they needed a leader.
  - John’s explanation here in v.15 explains Mark 6:45 as to why Jesus left the crowd so abruptly.
  - Jesus knew that the only way His kingdom would triumph was by dying<sub>7</sub> and rising from the dead.

## John 6:15-21/Mark 6: 45-56

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sign - Jesus Walks on the Sea

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- Mark says that **if they did not understand the meaning of the loaves (feeding of 5,000), they could not understand the walking on the water, because their hearts were hardened** (Like the parable of the Sower in Mark 4:13; 4:24-25; Mark 6: 5-6, 6:52 ).
- A close review of this passage reveals **multiple miracles**. Jesus omnisciently saw the boat in the storm; He overcame gravity to walk on water; He enabled Peter to walk on water; He stopped the wind and the storm; and He immediately transported the boat to the shore.
- **This miracle identifies Jesus more closely as God than the feeding the 5,000, because:**
  - Jesus goes up on a **mountain to pray**, just as Moses did (**Ex. 34:1-9**)
  - **“passing by”** (Mark 6:48) and declaring **“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid”** has different interpretations by scholars, but seems to be referencing that He is the **“I AM”** of **Ex. 3:14; Ex. 33: 19; 34:6; Job 9:8; 11 – JESUS IS THE REDEEMER**
  - **Control over Nature** – Parting of Red Sea & Crossing Jordan River

John 6:15-21/Mark 6: 45-56

## Jesus Walks on the Sea

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- Old Testament references of Relevance: **Psalm 77:19** “Your way was in the sea, Your path in the great waters”; **Habakkuk 3:15** “You walked through the sea...”; **Job 9:8** “He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea.”
- This is a **lesson of faith over fear**, not only that we can trust Jesus even in the most hopeless situation, but that we can step out in faith to do seemingly impossible things.
- John and Mark leave out the important part of the story described in **Matthew 14: 22-34** where Peter walks on the water towards Jesus.

## John 6:15-21/Mark 6: 45-56

# Jesus Walks on the Sea

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- In John 6 we saw two of the biggest miracles yet. These **miracles were like parables, teaching us, that if we don't understand the feeding, we won't understand the walking on water.**
- The walking on the water miracle was a significant milestone for the disciples' faith, because for the first time they acknowledged **"Truly You are the Son of God"** John 6:69; Matthew 14:33; Mark 8:29
- **Questions to meditate on:**
  - **Are we seeking "loaves" or "eternal life"?**
  - **Do we have faith, even in our trials?**
  - **Do we keep our eyes on Jesus and not on the waves? Do we have faith to step out and do great things for the Lord?**