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JOHN 6

John Series

Open your Bibles with me to John 6. Do you love the Lord? Okay. Well we're going to talk today about guys who are learning to love the Lord and what that means. I don't think that's easy to just love the Lord. I mean, it sounds easy sometimes, but how do you love the Lord in the challenges of everyday life? That's what the disciples are trying to learn as they're growing with Christ in their earthly ministry.

In John 6 you're going to see us in a very important point in Jesus' ministry. I would say this is the high point or the pinnacle of His popularity. This is the feeding of the five thousand. Thousands are coming and they're going to be fed by Him. They are so thrilled. But at the end of the chapter it says some of them are leaving now. We're going to see it start to go down, His popularity at this point. I want you to see why and understand it.

We're going to look at John 6 and we're going to try to glean some applications for our own lives and look at some ways that we can apply this particular passage to ourselves.

John 6:1: Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

Notice in that passage John's going to clarify for us a couple of things. He's writing years later. He's going to clarify for us that the Sea of Galilee is the Sea of Tiberias, the same thing. He's also going to clarify for us the Passover's near. He's just making those cultural and geographical references for people who aren't in Israel so they can see what's going on.

The story that we have here is found in all four gospels. Those disciples were really impressed by the event that's about to take place. We know the story. They didn't know the story. So as we go through this I just want you to see it from their perspective and what was happening.

If we look at the story in the gospel of Mark we're going to see a little different perspective as we enter the story itself. Mark 6:30-33 says this: *The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."*

So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

We're going to see the love of God and the power of God put together here in this story. We're going to see that the disciples are trying to get away and just spend some time with God, just enjoy that rest time with Him. But God has a different plan because God also loves the crowds that are coming. He has compassion on them, so some amazing things are going to happen in this story.

Back to John 6:5. It says, *When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"*

Why does He choose Philip? I'm not sure. Maybe because Philip lived in that area, Bethsaida we're told is Philip's home, and maybe because Bethsaida's on the northern side of the Sea of Galilee. Maybe he would have some references or some ideas. Or maybe because Philip was the logistical guy for the disciples. We know Judas holds the money, but Philip seems to have some logistical abilities. He's the guy who's thinking along these lines. If we look in the next verse we see that God wants to do something specifically in Philip's life.

Verse 6: *He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.* This tells me that God loves Philip and He wants to show His power in Philip. He's got to test him. He's got to push him a little bit. He's going to ask him some questions. Not to test him to see if he's going to fail or pass, but test him to strengthen him to move to the next level in his spiritual development.

I think this is really important for all of us because we can look at what God is doing in our lives right now and He's lifting us to the next level of our spiritual development using the present challenges that we face.

I like to work with young people. A lot of young people like video games. I try to use video games sometimes to illustrate the truths of the Bible. When you get into Level 1 of the video game, it's easy enough so you're kind of learning a few of the rules and you pass Level 1 and you say, "Yes! I can do this!" Right? So you're eager to get to Level 2 where you learn a few more rules that you didn't know about in Level 1 and you get to go and master that level. It's a little bit harder, but it goes further.

I tell kids, young people this. I say, "Living outside in the real world – that's about Level 25. If you think you're going to live life in Level 25 out in the real world but you're only living it on Level 15 now, you've got a problem. Because there are a lot of things you do not understand about living life after Level 25 that you need to learn now. So the things you experience right now in your home – how to follow instructions or how to have a good attitude when you don't get what you want or how to contribute to family life – those things are very important because they're going to help you when you get out into the real world at Level 25. You're only at Level 15 now. Come on, let's start working on these things now so you can be ready to advance."

God is doing that each one of our lives. He chose Philip and He says, “Philip, I want to ask you a question.” He tests Philip in a way that Philip needed to be tested. God has an individualized plan for each one of us.

I like it here that He zeroes in on Philip. It doesn't just say, “And He asked the disciples this.” No, He goes right into Philip's life because He knows that's what Philip needs. God knows exactly what you and I need as well. He goes to Philip and He asks this question.

So *Philip answered him* in verse 7, “*It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!*”

I imagine Jesus says to Philip, “Hey, where are we going to get enough food for these people?” Philip says, “Excuse me just a minute,” pulls out his calculator, calculates a little bit and says, “You know, if everybody just gets one bite it's going to take a half a year's wages to do that.”

In other words what he's saying is, “God, this is impossible. Let me just give you a little logistics of this. I just want you to understand this is unreasonable what you're asking.” That puts us at the first stage of what we need for a miracle to take place. Because if ever we're going to have a miracle, it starts with the impossible, right? If it were possible it wouldn't be a miracle.

So what God is doing here in Philip's life is showing him, “This is impossible. Now get ready to see the power of God as I demonstrate my love to you. You're going to see that power as we go through.” That's Philip.

But we have another disciple who needs a little work too, that's Andrew. Verse 8: *Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”*

Andrew speaks up and he says, “Hey, I've got a guy right here with some lunch. He's got five loaves and a couple fish.” I can imagine they're having this discussion and everybody's looking around at all the crowds. We're talking about thousands of people; five thousand men only, that's not counting women and children. Thousands of people coming. The disciples and Jesus are all standing around. Andrew says, “Hey, we've got a guy with a small lunch here.”

I can imagine all the disciples saying, “What? How is that even relevant to what's going on?” So Andrew adds that other part, “*But,*” he says, “*how valuable is this among so many?*” He just comes back with the ‘buts.’ Which I think we do sometimes. God, this is a great idea, but let's think rationally here. Let's think practically. I don't think this is going to work. We sometimes stifle the miracles that God wants to do because of the ‘buts’ that end up in our life.

The other thing I like about this verse is that in verse 9 it says *a boy*. We don't know how old the boy was, but he's a child, he's not an adult. God uses a child in the midst of His kingdom program to do something really special. I think that's powerful.

I think at Calvary Chapel we want our young people to recognize that now is the time for them to be involved in ministry. Now's the time that they can experience God. When they're here on

Sunday mornings they're not only receiving, and hopefully they're receiving something for their personal lives, but they're also sharing. They're part of a body, they're part of the church family, and God is doing something great.

So Jesus takes a little boy's lunch. I imagine that day the boy decides he's going to go off on the big parade with these crowds and mom says, "Hey, be sure to take a lunch." That mom I'm sure did not know that her lunch that day would feed over 5,000 people.

God delights in using children. We see that throughout the Bible. I just imagine the servant girl who comes to the door in Acts when Peter arrives at the door having been rescued from prison. Where are all the adults? They're in a prayer meeting. They're praying that Peter would be rescued. A child comes to the door and sees Peter and she didn't even open the door, she just runs back, "Peter's at the door." And they're saying, "No, no. We're praying here for Peter. He's in prison." Do you see they kind of minimize the role of the child.

Could you imagine what that did for that child's life? "God answers prayer! I was part of that!" God delights in using children. I just think it's so fun.

Notice that in this passage the boy's food is being presented. Now Matthew tells us these words. Matthew's story or rendition of this tells us that Jesus said, "Give them to me."

Very important lesson I think we learn from this story is that God wants to do miracles, demonstrate His power in our lives because He loves us. What He asks of us is to give it to Him. Give the little bit that we have. Because He does big things when we give Him the little things that we have. He wants to use anyone, a child, a young person, an adult. He'll take any of the insignificant things that we think, "Oh, I don't have very much." We give it to Him and He multiplies that and He does something great.

Let's watch how He does it in verse 10. *Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.*

Jesus doesn't rebuke them, these disciples. He doesn't even answer their questions or their challenges. He just starts giving them instructions so they can see it worked out.

I like that because I think sometimes the best way we learn is experientially. I think sometimes our children the best way they learn is experientially. We sit them down and say, "You've got to do this this, this, and this," when it might be more helpful if we get them involved in what's going on so they can learn by experience. That's what Jesus is going to do.

He's going to sit them down, Mark tells us, *in fifties and hundreds*. He's going to get them all organized.

He says grace, it says in the passage. And when He says grace I'm imagining during the prayer the disciples are saying, "He is going to have to break this up into itsy bitsy pieces." I just wonder what they think about this.

Then they start distributing this food all over the place. They're not getting French bread and smoked salmon; they're just using common things, barley loaves, small fish. There are some very important things that I think the people are learning because they're being fed in this multitude but the disciples are gaining the real benefit because they're participating in the process. God is using them to be involved in the miracle itself.

Verse 12: *When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.*

The disciples are just the servants. They're the food distributors like you and me. All we are is the grace distributors and we're just passing on that grace to other people and God uses that in our lives.

I can imagine the disciples. They're in groups now, all the people are in groups of fifty and a hundred, probably so they could have paths to walk in between to distribute the food. I can imagine one of the disciples coming back and saying, "I sure hope He keeps doing this because I've got another crowd down there who doesn't have any food," or "These guys over here now want seconds." They're distributing all this food and you see in verse 11 *as much as they wanted*.

Verse 12: *When they all had enough to eat* – that's a lot of food. They distribute a whole bunch of that and then notice they gathered up these twelve baskets full that were left over. Why twelve? Twelve disciples, twelve baskets. God loves these people. I think God wants to teach them a lesson, each one individually. "Take your basket, guys. A basket that demonstrates God's power." They take that basket away and I'm sure it's why it's changed their lives so much.

That's why this story is in every one of the gospels. I'm sure it just made such an impact on them that they learned to see God in a bigger way than they had ever seen Him before. That He is so powerful, that He is able to take and care for people individually in a whole group. Wow, what an amazing thing that they had done. It's going to change their lives.

Let's go onto verse 14: *After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*

They wanted to make Him king by force. Why? Because we need a king who can make food! This is the best kind of king that we can have. We don't have to have any more welfare program. Just come to the king, He turns it into food. So they wanted a bread king is what they wanted.

Jesus is going to teach them some other things. Notice it says in 15 – *Jesus, knowing they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew*. He got out of there. That's not what He wanted for them. We can't just confuse the spiritual with the physical and that's what's

happening here. They saw the food, but they didn't realize Jesus' message. Jesus is going to elaborate on that in the rest of the chapter. We'll talk about that in a minute.

Mark tells us that He tells the disciples now to get down and go in a boat because here's the lesson: Jesus wants His disciples to know that He's not just the bread king, He's also the storm king. That's why the stories are right back-to-back here. We're going from being the bread king; we're going to go now into the Sea of Galilee to be the storm king as well.

I think a lot of times we want Jesus to satisfy our needs and so we want more and more of the bread kinds of things. It's like the young person who stands in front of the refrigerator while mom's counting the quarters of energy leaving the refrigerator and the young person says, "Don't we have any food?" You feel like saying, "What do you think all of that is inside of the refrigerator?" Or the young person stands in front of a closet full of clothes and says, "I have nothing to wear." Or there's the closet with games and activities and crafts and "I am so bored."

Sometimes that is what we want in our lives. We want God just give me more. Satisfy. Make me feel good. Give me more bread.

Jesus has a deeper message He wants to share with these disciples that's going to be powerful for them because He wants them to understand there's power in His love. When we understand the love of God and the love that He has for us then we recognize that that is so powerful and God wants to do some amazing things.

So verse 16 says, *When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened.*

If you just look at the story here, it's dark, they're halfway across the lake, the water's rough, there's waves that make it difficult. But I want you to know that this is storm 102 for these guys. They've already been through a storm with Jesus.

Storm 101 isn't taught in John, it's taught elsewhere. But in storm 101 they were in the boat and Jesus was sleeping in the boat. They woke up Jesus. "Don't you care if we die?" they said. And Jesus got up and He calmed the storm and they were amazed, the Bible says. That was storm 101.

Jesus isn't in the boat right now. Now they're in storm 102. He's taking them to the next level in their spiritual development. Will they be able to trust the Lord in this particular situation? What are they going to do?

The same story is told in Mark again and so let me show you what it says because it shows us some more insight into the story that I think is really interesting. Mark 6:47-49 says this: *Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples*

straining at the oars. Don't you find that fascinating? They're three or four miles away, it's pitch black dark, and He sees them straining at the oars.

You may think that it's so dark around you that God can't see what's going on. He knows what's going on in your storm in your life.

Because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them [shortly before dawn – that tells us that they had been rowing now for hours. Probably eight hours they had been rowing], *walking on the lake.*

He was about to pass by them. What in the world does that mean? I can hardly wait to get to heaven and ask Mark, “What are you talking about? What does it mean He's about to pass?” Nothing. I want to know their comments. He's about to pass by them, *but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost.* So they were afraid. I would be scared to death myself in this kind of a situation, so I can imagine what they're talking about.

Last month at the gym I took up rowing. I've been working on this sermon for three weeks trying to get up here and teach it to you. So during that time I've been thinking a lot about rowing as I've been rowing. I've got calluses on my hands because I row for thirty minutes. That is a major accomplishment. These guys were rowing for eight hours. I go, “I can't believe that.” Here I am on the rowing machine, every time I go on there now I'm imagining these guys on the Sea of Galilee rowing for eight hours. My goodness that must have been a really difficult thing for them to do.

As I'm rowing now I'm thinking about different storms in the Bible. What kind of storms are out there because I don't think all storms are like this one.

There's a storm, for example, the storm of discipline. You remember Jonah? Jonah was doing the wrong thing, going the wrong direction. He's on a boat and there's a big storm and he knew he was doing the wrong thing. So he says to the guy, “Look, the reason we have this storm is for me. You've got to throw me overboard.” They did and the storm stopped. There are some storms in our lives that we better pay attention to because they're discipline storms. But not all storms are that way.

There's a storm in the New Testament in the book of Acts where Paul is being transported as a prisoner to Rome. He's on a boat and the Bible tells us that there is a storm and the Bible calls it a hurricane. It lasts for days and they're being thrown around on this. They run ropes all the way around the boat to hold the boat together. They threw off all the cargo. They even throw off all the tackle necessary to run the boat. They think they're all going to die. And Paul then says to them, “Guys, I want you to know, the Lord told me no one's going to die here. We're going to lose the boat. We're going to crash. But no one's going to die.”

Why that storm? I don't think Paul was doing the wrong thing there. I think the reason that storm was there was because God wanted to reveal His grace to other people and watch a believer go through a storm and to reveal the power that was there. I think that's sometimes what's going on in the storms.

We don't always have to say, "I must be doing the wrong thing because there's a storm in my life." Sometimes storms, like the storm with Noah, just demonstrate the grace of God in saving people who trust in Him. Sometimes the storms are like these and I think this storm is to raise these guys to the next level in their spiritual development.

As I think about these storms I look at another passage. The same story but in Matthew 14 it says, *Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.* What that tells me is that these guys are right in the middle of God's will, they're doing exactly what they're supposed to be doing. They're obeying God and they have a storm.

So I just want you to know you can be obeying God and doing everything God wants you to do and that doesn't mean you won't have storms in your life. Storms still come in. It's in the midst of those storms that God allows us to move to the next level of our lives. That's what He wants us to do. He wants us to grow in our spiritual development. He provides that for us as He's moving us forward.

Jesus told them to get into the boat. Now they're right where they need to be, in the middle of a storm. So you being in the middle of a storm today might be right where God wants you to be. If you reveal something you're doing wrong then you need to deal with it. But if there's nothing God is showing you that you're doing wrong and you're obeying Him, you are right where God wants you to be. There's no safer place than being in the center of God's will. That's exactly what these guys are doing. They are right in the center of God's will and they're experiencing a storm.

Verse 20 of John 6: *But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."* I like these next words. *Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.*

Other gospels tell us that they rode for three or four hours through the center of the lake. The miracle is not only that Jesus gets in the boat, but they were immediately at the other side. God took them through this storm rather quickly when they invited Him into the boat.

I think that's a good reference for us. We need to be willing to take Him into our ship in the midst of the storm. There are a lot of people who don't take God into the ship. They say, "I can solve this problem by myself. I can deal with this. I can't give this to the Lord." And so they keep going on and on and on in the storm, wrestling with the storm. You think, "When are these guys going to learn? When are they going to change?" They need to take Jesus into the boat and willingly take Him in. When they do, amazing things happen.

Matthew says that when they got to the other side the disciples worshiped Him. I bet they did. Eight hours of rowing in the dark, scared to death, think it's a ghost, they get to the other side, they know it's Jesus, everything's good. They're going, "We worship you." What else could they say? That's what happens when we see the power of God.

Verse 22 – we’re going to see some explanation now in Jesus’ teaching. I’m going to go through the end of the chapter here and just share some of this, the lessons that Jesus wants His disciples to learn.

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. But now He’s going here. Something’s wrong. How did He get here? They don’t know.

Verse 23: *Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. They’ve got to find the answer to this question – how in the world did you get over there?*

Verse 25: *When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”*

Jesus answered (He’s not going to answer the question), “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

They were looking for the gifts, not the giver. They weren’t really concerned with the person who’s going to change their lives; they were just interested in being fed. He knows there’s a greater question they need to understand, so He didn’t even address the question of how He got there and explain to them He walked on the water. What He does for them is He explains to them a little bit more about the spiritual food that He’s talking about.

Verse 27 – He says, *“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”*

Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” So He’s coming back to the message. This is the message, by the way, that John really wants us to understand. This is why he wrote his book. He’s going to continually come back to this.

The most important thing we learn from this book is we must all believe in God. He’s going to tell story after story after story and he’s going to come back to something like this where he says the work of God is to believe in Him. That’s what we need to do.

Verse 30: *So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?”* I can’t believe they’re asking for a sign. I mean, they see Him feed five thousand people. He’s healed the sick, amazing things are going on, and they’re asking for another sign.

They go on in verse 31. *“Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”*

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” Now He’s speaking about Himself.

Verse 34: *“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”* Now they’re ready to learn about this bread, so Jesus is going to explain to them a little bit more. It’s tough, this is hard for them to get.

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life.” This is one of the *I am*s in the book of John.

“Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

The message here Jesus is saying is everybody who comes, everyone who trusts in the Father, everyone who believes in the Son, that person is going to have eternal life.

If you’re here today and you don’t have that, you need to just look at the passage, see what it’s saying because this is a message for you too. You want to come to Jesus, you want to come to Him by faith, you want to believe in who He is, and He is the one who provides life for you and for me. That’s the message for any of us.

Verse 41: *At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”*

We know this guy! He’s the carpenter’s son. We know his brother, we know his sister. He’s lived among us. This can’t be right. And so they’re having a hard time about this and they’re grumbling. But Jesus knows the grumbling, just like Jesus knows any grumbling that we do in our own hearts. He knows what’s going on.

Verse 43: *“Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.*

Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

The religious leaders are having a hard time with this. It sounds like cannibalism to them, so they're having a hard time understanding this. We see it in verse 52 they say, *Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”*

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.”

He's not talking about communion here, which we know a lot more theologically than they knew in the passage. We might see that as a reference to communion. That's not what He's talking about here. He's talking about coming to God, getting our sustenance from God, believing in Him, and having this eternal life.

Verse 55: *“For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.*

He's using a physical metaphor to describe a spiritual reality and God is all about doing that in our lives, teaching us more about our own hearts and what He wants us to do.

Verse 60: *On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”* That word *disciples* there refers not to the apostles but to all the disciples, the people who are followers at that time. We're going to see that in just a moment.

Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” That's the issue – believe.

For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

Verse 66, the key verse there: *From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.* See, it's one thing to follow God because of the bread or the miracles. It's another thing to follow Him because you believe in Him, He changes your life. Once you recognize how much God has done for you, it just changes you.

How many storms do you have to go through when Jesus rescues you. He comes into the boat and you go, “Wow. Jesus has rescued me again.” You go away from that experience saying,

“How can I live without God? How can I do anything without the power of God? It’s the love and the power of God in my life that allow me to go on in life.”

How many times do you have to watch God do a miracle like the feeding of the five thousand? You go, “I just need God in my life.” When you do that, it draws you to something much deeper.

So many of us have said that. We know we don’t come to God just because of the little trinkets that He gives us occasionally. We come to God because where else would we go?

Verse 67: He turns to His apostles, the Twelve. He says, “*You do not want to leave too, do you?*” *Jesus asked the Twelve.*

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.” And many of us have made that commitment so much that we know where else could we go? We live every day of our lives trusting in God, not because He did one miracle in the past, but He is the God of miracles that continues to do that in our lives every day.

It is hard, it’s a hard thing to understand sometimes. I think that’s what the disciples are saying. It’s hard, but we know this is where we have to go because you are the king. Not just the king of the bread. You’re the king of the storms. You’re the king of my life.

Verse 70 – let’s finish the chapter out here: *Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)*

All of this story I’m convinced is there so that the disciples will learn what it means to follow the Lord in every area of their life. In anything that’s going on we can do the same thing. That’s the message for us. Do we follow Him? What do we do? How do we respond to Him in our lives? It’s the power of God that we see. It’s the love of God that we have that enables us to do that.

If the disciples can learn this valuable lesson in the midst of that and they are the ones who are going to go out and change the world, what can we do? We can take that and apply to our lives and present that message to others so they can learn about it as well.

John 6 is a valuable passage in God’s word. I hope you’ll take it to heart.