

Today's passage is one that most of us are familiar with and yet there is always something new, or at least different, to discover. A lot simply depends on how one reads it.

This passage is often titled 'the feeding of the 5000', but reading the text tells us (verse 10) that there were 5000 'men'. We know there were children present as well (verse 9) and, as we know, women were rarely acknowledged at that time (for many cultural reasons rather than misogynistic ones), so there surely would have been many more than '5000'.

Some people try to explain away or dismiss the miracles of Jesus and yet here we have John actually understating one and it is, perhaps, the one that is most public.

I wonder, apart from Jesus and the disciples, how many others in that vast crowd even considered where their 'free lunch' came from. I also wonder if the boy whose lunch was used as the basis for the miracle managed to get some himself.

I would like to think so.

### **Read John 6:1-21**

1. Read verses 1&2 again. What, if anything, strikes you as odd? Why is that? Does it become more or less believable?
2. Verse 2 states that 'many followed 'because they saw the signs' etc. This makes it sound as if Jesus was little more than travelling entertainment. Why, or why not, is that true?
3. Why do you think John mentions the Passover festival here? (Verse 4).

4. Why does Jesus ask Philip about the logistics of feeding everybody if Judas was the 'treasurer'? Why do you think Andrew noticed the young boy and his lunch?
5. How could Jesus Himself have distributed the bread and fish to so many (verse 11)? Is that a poor translation or what may have actually happened? Discuss.
6. If you have ever eaten dried/smoked fish and bread you will know you need something else [not condiments – water]. Why is this not mentioned? And what is the significance of the 'twelve baskets' (Verse 13)?
7. What does it take for people to believe? Verse 14 states: 'after the people had seen the 'signs' that Jesus performed...' How many signs and how often did/does Jesus need to 'perform' before people believed then and now? Discuss.
8. Read verse 15 again. Why did Jesus withdraw from the crowd? What does this remind you of? Why is this different to Jn. 2:2-6?
9. What makes you question what you have just read in verses 16-19? Why does that make you 'pause for thought'?
10. There are three points I noticed particularly in verses 19-21.  
a) 'they were frightened' b) 'Then they were willing . . .' etc. And c) 'immediately the boat reached the shore'. What is John doing here and why? (compare with the other Gospel versions of this story).

## Prayer Points

Give thanks for all those who volunteer and serve in the church. Pray for those who are pausing over the summer and others who continue to serve and enable others.

Pray for the young people as they prepare for their summer trip next month. Pray for Karline and the team as they get everything ready.

Pray for the Director of Finance and Operations and for the Finance and Audit Advisory Committee. Pray for wisdom as they seek to ensure that BMS both stewards our resources well and also shares those resources to bless others. Pray that they would see how crucial their work is.

## Sermon Notes

L\_\_\_\_\_

L\_\_\_\_\_

L\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001



# BIBLE STUDY

July 27<sup>th</sup> 2025

## A Picnic and a Walk:

### John 6:1-21

John 1–7 presents key themes that reveal Jesus' identity and mission. Jesus is the eternal Word of God, bringing light and life to a dark world. He calls people to believe in Him for eternal life, but many reject Him despite His miracles and teachings. A central theme is new birth—spiritual transformation through the Holy Spirit. Jesus offers living water and calls Himself the Bread of Life, showing He alone satisfies the soul. These chapters also highlight growing conflict and division, as people respond to Him with belief, confusion, or hostility. Through signs and deep conversations, Jesus reveals His divine nature and the offer of salvation to all, regardless of background or status.