**Book of John Series 6:1-24 Vol 12**

**Forcing Jesus to be King?**

**John McGlone 01-15-17**

**Joh 6:1-24** After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is *the sea of* Tiberias. 2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. 4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. 5 When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? 6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? 10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. 12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. 13 Therefore they gathered *them* together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. 15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone. 16 And when even was *now* come, his disciples went down unto the sea, 17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. 18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. 19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. 20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. 21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went. 22 . The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but *that* his disciples were gone away alone; 23 (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:) 24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus  
  
**God’s Miracles Believed  
Jesus Overcomes Nature  
Other Gospel Accounts  
Chasing Jesus or Miracles?**  
6:1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is *the sea of* Tiberias. **GIVE HANDOUT**

**after these things can not mean immediately, but sometime after** because we see other things happening before Jesus & Co. leave Jerusalem by ship to the other side Bethsaida. We see this term, “After these things…” 24 times in the Bible> Gen – Rev. 3 times in Luke, 4 times in John. We see this idea clearly shown as a period of time passing and not immediate chronological events between the end of John 20 and the beginning of 21.

In the 1st century AD Josephus, the famous Jewish historian,  reported that there were nine cities scattered around its shores including: Gadara, Bethsadia, Chorazin, Capernaum, Magdala and Tiberias and evidence that suggests each of the cities were home to about 15,000 people (about 3000 homes in each). [This map](https://abramkj.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/ch-22_lake-of-gennesaret.png) denotes several events, cities, and harbors around the lake ([relief maps](https://pictures.lytro.com/gtroxell/albums/154926)).  In the 1 century AD it is believed that there were about [forty different kinds of fish](http://thewikibible.pbworks.com/w/page/22174694/Fishing%20in%20the%20Bible%20and%20the%20Ancient%20Near%20East) in the Sea of Galilee including the most popular *Musht*(similar to tilapia) aka St. Peter’s fish and a small (2 inch) sardine-like fish. Josephus reported that as many as 230 fishing boats were often seen on the lake.  
  
after these things can not mean immediately, but sometime after because we see other things happening before Jesus & Co. leave Jerusalem by ship to the other side Bethsaida.

Jesus went over - Went to the east side of the sea. The place to which **he went was Bethsaida**, Luk\_9:10.  
  
 The account of this miracle of feeding the five thousand is recorded also in Mat\_14:13-21; with the beheading of John the Baptist serving as the catalyst to retreat to another place.

Mar\_6:32-44; departed Jerusalem by ship privately right after the beheading of John the Baptist vs 30 confirmed  
  
Luk\_9:10-17. John has added a few circumstances omitted by the other evangelists.

**God’s Miracles Believed**  
6:13-15 Therefore they gathered *them* together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. 15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Do we believe God only when He has supernaturally done something for us? Do we believe God when He has only naturally provided for us. Should we believe God because of who He is, how He hath loved us, and that He is Good and Worthy to be loved?

**[removed translation additions]  
Mat 13:16-17** But blessed your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous have desired to see which ye see, and have not seen*;* and to hear which ye hear, and have not heard*.*

In vs 15 we see the Jews seeking to Force Jesus to be their King and God? If He won’t force us to be His subjects, then how could we force Him to be our King? Or our God? If we could subject God in this way, wouldn’t that make us God?

**Adam Clarke wrote:**  
**Take him by force, to make him a king -** The Jews had often suffered by famine in those times in which their enemies were permitted to prevail over them; but, finding that Jesus had such power as to multiply a few loaves to feed thousands, they took it for granted that while he was at their head no evil could possibly happen to them, and therefore were determined immediately to proclaim him king, and rid themselves at once of Herod and the Romans. Our Lord perceiving this, either by some words which they had dropped, or by his penetration of their hearts, retired before the project had been fully formed, or could be put into execution. It was not till a considerable time afterwards that even the disciples fully understood that his kingdom was not of this world.  
  
**Albert Barnes wrote:**  
Men often attempt to dictate to God, and suppose that they understand what is right better than he does. They are fond of pomp and power, but Jesus sought retirement, and showed profound humility. Though he had claims to the honor and gratitude of the nation, yet he sought it not in this way; nor did it show a proper spirit in his followers when they sought to advance him to a place of external splendor and regal authority.

**Jesus Overcomes Nature**  
6:18-21 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. 19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. 20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. 21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.  
  
A furlong = .125 miles Therefore 25 furlongs = 3.125 miles, 30 furlongs = 3.75 miles. J That’s a long walk on water! In these miracles; Jesus walking on water, Peter beginning to walk on water, the storm calmed, etc was the boat supernaturally transported?, Jesus again gives evidence He is the Creator of the environment He was operating within.

**Other Gospel Accounts  
Mar 6:45-53** Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away. 46 And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray. 47 Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He *was* alone on the land. 48 Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. 49 And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; 50 for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." 51 Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. 52 For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened. 53 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there.

**Mat 14:22-34** Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. 24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." 34 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

**Chasing Jesus or Miracles?**  
6:22-24 The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but *that* his disciples were gone away alone; 23 (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:) 24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus

**In conclusion God’s Miracles should be believed because of the preponderance of the evidence. Jesus overcomes nature showing He has the power over His creation. Other Gospel accounts are important to compare so we have a clear picture of what happened, that we may show the naysayers for the foolishness they believe. Chasing Jesus or miracles, are you seeking God for what He can do now or who He is and your love for Him?**