

The Power of the Son of God

Gospel of John, Part XX

John 6:1-21

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I. The Son of God Rejected

Chapter 5 is a transitional chapter in John's Gospel. On the one hand, John uses this account to continue proving that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. At the same time, John uses the account to highlight the beginnings of opposition to Jesus, a theme that continues in chapter 6.

II. Miracles in Galilee

A. Overview

A – Sign #4: Feeding the 5,000 (1-15)

B – Sign #5: Disciples see Jesus walking on the water (16-21)

A' – Dialogue: The Bread from Heaven (22-59)

B' – Dialogue: Many disciples abandon Jesus (60-71)

B. The Miracles

1. Feeding the 5000

a. The Setting (1-4 cf. Mk 6:31-32)

b. The Test (5-9)

c. The Feeding (10-13)

d. The Response (14-15)

2. Walking on the Sea (16-21)

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - 1. Opposition in Jerusalem (5:1-47)
 - 2. Opposition in Galilee (6:1-71)
 - 3. Growing Opposition in Jerusalem (7:1-52)
 - 4. Settled Opposition in Jerusalem (7:53-10:39)
 - 5. Belief across the Jordan (10:40-42)
 - 6. Hardened Opposition in Jerusalem (11:1-12:36)
 - 7. The hour has come (12:20-36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

III. Application

A. Jesus brings blessing to the world through the feeble faith of His disciples (Ps 67)

Consider the task that God has set before us: *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...* Is this not a daunting task? How is it possible that God could transform the world through our efforts?

God be merciful to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us, That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

B. Jesus refuses to be the creature of others' political ambitions (Josh 5:13-15)

And Joshua said to the man, *"Are you for us or for our adversaries?"* So He said, *"No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."* And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, *"What does my Lord say to His servant?"*

Jesus does not serve our _____; we serve His. We are not the center around which He revolves. He is the center around which we revolve.

As Christians, we must beware letting ourselves get co-opted by a political philosophy or political party. _____ is not the heart of God's work on earth. Politics is important. But politics is the fruit of culture, it is the fruit of worship. Politics is driven by moral and religious convictions.

C. Jesus excites and relieves the fears of His people (Ps 107)

Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters, They see the works of the LORD, And His wonders in the deep. For He commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea. They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits' end. Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses. He calms the storm, So that its waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet; So He guides them to their desired haven. Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people, And praise Him in the company of the elders.

IV. Conclusion