

We've been learning throughout this study that the real point of the mighty works, wonders, and signs done by Jesus wasn't simply to put on a show. He worked these miracles so that people could **know** who he was, where he had come from, and why they ought to listen to him.

Only one miracle (other than Jesus' resurrection from the dead) is

recorded in all four Gospels. It comes on the heels of Jesus hearing that his cousin, John the Baptist, had been murdered by Herod the tetrarch (Matt 14:1-12).

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by \_\_\_\_\_. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had \_\_\_\_\_ on them and healed their sick. (14:13-14)

Mark also describes Jesus as having "compassion on them" as he went ashore and saw the great crowd, "because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things" (6:34).

Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds \_\_\_\_\_ to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." But Jesus said, "They need not go away; \_\_\_\_\_ give them something to eat." (Matt 14:15-16)

John lets us know that Jesus "\_\_\_\_\_ what he would do," but was testing the disciples. At one point, Philip spoke up, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." It was Andrew that shared, "There is a \_\_\_\_\_ here who has \_\_\_\_\_ barley loaves and \_\_\_\_\_ fish, but what are they for so many?" (John 6:6-9)

And he said, "Bring them here to \_\_\_\_\_." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were \_\_\_\_\_. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about \_\_\_\_\_ thousand men, besides women and children. (Matt 14:18-21)

John records for us, "When the people saw the \_\_\_\_\_ that he had done, they said, 'This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!'" But Jesus "perceived then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king" so he withdrew to the mountain by himself (6:14-15).

What does this sign show us about Jesus' authority and heart? **Let's talk about it...**



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Take a moment to think about **Matthew 14:13**, especially in light of what had happened in **14:1-12**. Why do you think Jesus withdrew to a desolate place by himself? Is there anything here that might help us understand a little bit more about his heart?
- ▶ And what about what happened next according to **Mark 6:34**? What does this reveal to us about Jesus' heart?
- ▶ Let's go back and read **John 6:5-7** together. Why do you think Jesus was testing Philip?
- ▶ What does this miracle—using five loaves and two fish to feed five thousand men, besides women and children—show us about Jesus' power and authority? In what way was it a “sign” (**John 6:14**)?
- ▶ Why would the people, after seeing the “sign,” have said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world” (**John 6:14**)? **Deuteronomy 18:15-19** might be helpful here...
- ▶ Let's go back to **John 6** in our Bibles and notice what happened “the next day.” Let's read **6:22-26**. What does Jesus know about the crowd?
- ▶ Let's pay very special attention to what Jesus said in **John 6:27**? What did he mean?
- ▶ What can we learn from what happened next in **John 6:28** and beyond, throughout the rest of the chapter? What did most of the crowd fail to understand about the “sign”? What did Peter understand by the end of the chapter? What do we need to understand?