

**FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE**

- 1) vs 1 “After these things” does not necessarily mean immediately after the events of ch 5 but rather indicates that what happens in ch 6 occurs **SUCCESSIVE** to ch 5. There’s a significant time gap between chapters.
- 2) By the time John wrote this gospel the Sea of Galilee was commonly known as Sea of Tiberias in honor of Caesar Tiberius. Their destination was a remote area just outside of Herod’s territory.
- 3.) vs 2 tells us the reason the crowd followed; “...*they saw the signs.*” They were not **MOTIVATED BY FAITH** in Jesus, but rather because he’s fixing people. They fail to grasp true significance of Jesus’ presence.
- 4.) When John tells us “*the Passover was near*” (vs 4), he’s letting us know some of the people belonged to the Passover crowd. He’s also filling us in that the events took place in the **SPRING**, before Passover.
- 5.) We see more “Brush Strokes” of God’s Nature in vs 5 & 6:
- a.) God sees the crowd-“lifting up His eyes”, -recognition of their needs.
  - b.) God is concerned with the needs of His need people.
  - c.) It is God’s Nature to “*test*” us and involve us in the responsibilities.
- 6.) Vs 7 “*Two hundred denari*” in the original Greek translates “*eight months’ wages*” rather than literal “two hundred denari”. A Denarius was equal to a **DAY’S WAGE** for a laborer or soldier.
- 7.) The “*5 barley loaves and 2 fish*” of vs 9 was a **SMALL**, common lunch for a single person from a poor working family. The barley loaves were made of the **CHEAPEST** grain available, and the two fish, which probably were pickled served as something like a relish.
- 8.) vs 10 mentions only the men; Matthew tells us there were women and children also. Speculation places the crowd size at nearly 20,000 people.
- 9) We are also told there is “much grass in the place – which is the detail of an **EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT**. It also confirms it took place in the spring.
- 10.) \* vs 11 says; “...*as much as they wanted.*” Our God is never stingy; He is always **ABUNDANT** in His provision.
- 11.) vs 15 The crowd wants someone to lead them who would feed them and guarantee their security. With Jesus as their provider, they’d never want for food and be healed of every illness.

12.) vs 15 Is a powerful indicator of the humility of Jesus while on earth. In contrast to the desire to make Him a King, He **REFUSES** to be part of their political ambitions. Jesus does not acquiesce or deviate from God’s plan. People cannot **MANIPULATE** God.

**GREEK WORDS USED TODAY**

**Eremos** (er'-ay-mos) *lonesome*:- desolate, solitary, wilderness

**FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**

\*Another portrait stroke- GOD sees you, GOD knows your needs, and at times God may test you. It’s the right of your loving heavenly father to provide for your needs, but also to use opportunities to allow you to grow in your walk with Him by challenging you.

How can you apply the principles of these truths this week?\_

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