

## ***Matt 14 v13-36 Feeding of the 5000 & Jesus walks on water***

### **Broader Context**

<b>Jesus feeds the 5000</b>	Matt 14 v13-21
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<b>Jesus walks on the water</b>	Matt 14 v22-36
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<b>Jesus the bread of life</b>	John 6 (more briefly)
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### **Lessons for us**

## Broader Context

After rejection from his home town of Nazareth Jesus had mostly been around Capernaum.

Matt 13: the parable of the sower.

5 parables which start “the kingdom of heaven is like . . .”

(weeds, mustard seed/yeast, hidden treasure, pearl, net/fish).

Last week we heard about the death of John the Baptist 14 v1-12

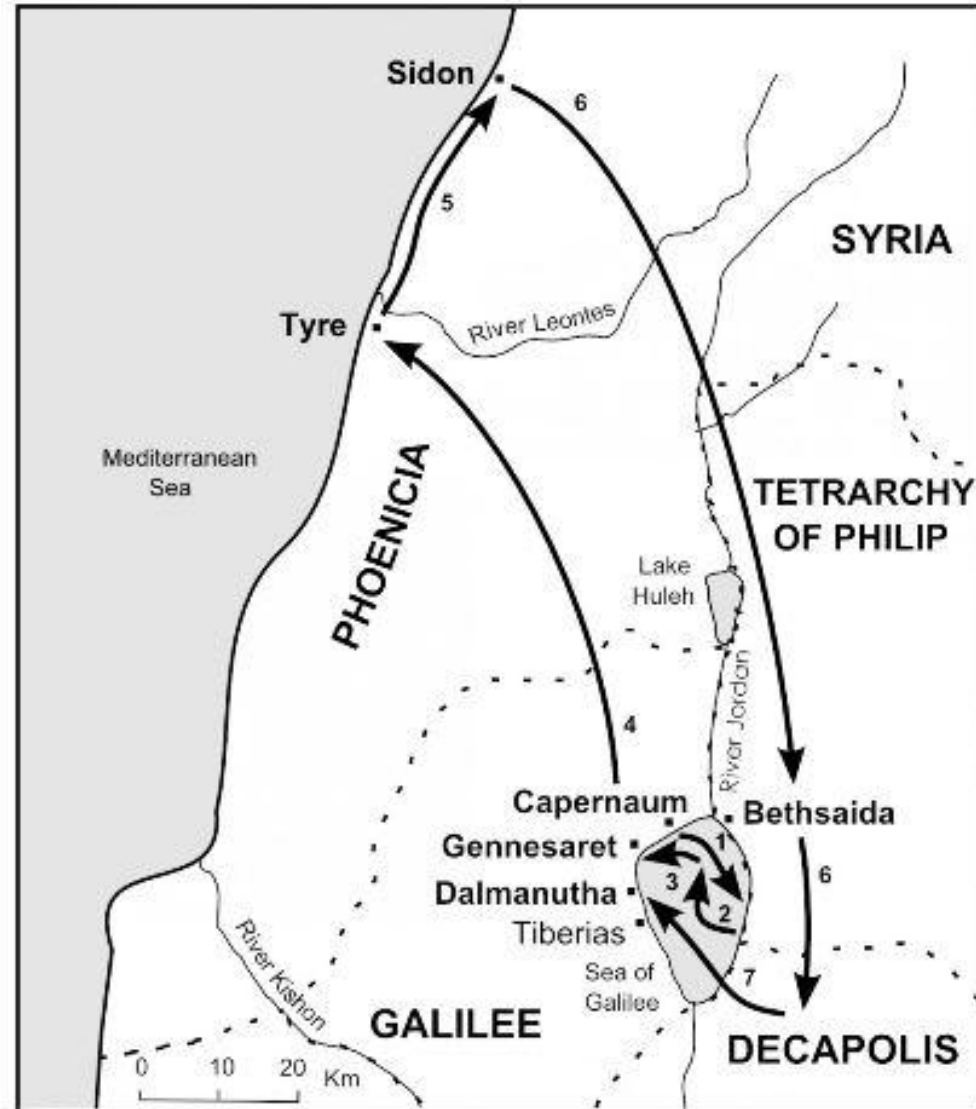
In our passage v13 “ when Jesus heard *this news* . . he withdrew by boat to a solitary place . . but the crowds followed him on foot.”

Location of feeding of 5000 most likely on E coast of Sea of Galilee (John 6 v1 ‘far shore of Sea of Galilee’)

After feeding of the 5000 the disciples set sail for Bethsaida (Mk 6 v45) but troubled by a storm they ended up at Gennesaret (Mk 6 v53).

Soon after this Jesus moves away from the Jews in Galilee to Tyre & Sidon (Matt 15 v21) & later through Caesarea Philippi (Matt 16 v13) down to the Decapolis – a Gentile area.

The later feeding of the 4000 is in the Decapolis



## Feeding of the 5000     Matt 14 or as noted

Jesus/disciples in a boat, Jewish crowd on foot, when J saw crowd:  
“he had compassion on them & healed their sick” v14  
“. . because they were like sheep without a shepherd.  
So he began teaching them . .” Mark 6 v34

Disciples say to Jesus “This is a remote place . . Its getting late . .  
send the crowds away . . v15  
Jesus says “They do not need to go away. **You** give them something  
to eat.” v16

Jesus looked at the crowd & said to Philip “Where shall we buy  
bread for these people to eat”.  
He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he  
was going to do – John 6 v5-6

The disciples respond:

“we have only 5 loaves & 2 fish” Matt 14 v17

John 6 v7-8

Philip answered “it would take 6 mths wages to buy enough bread”

Andrew said “Here is a boy with 5 small barley loaves/2 small fish but how far will that go among so many?”

Jesus leads:

Have the people sit down (in groups of 50 or 100 – Mark 6)

Jesus took the loaves

Jesus gave thanks (*gk eucharistein*)

Jesus broke them & divided the fish & gives it to the disciples

The disciples give bread/fish to the people (5000 men plus others)

“They all ate & were satisfied, the disciples picked up 12 basketfuls of leftovers” v20

## **Jesus walks on the water** Matt 14 v22-36

Jesus send disciples in a boat to N coast of Sea of G (it was dark) v22

Jesus dismisses the crowd

(he knew they intended to make him King by force – John 6 v15)

Jesus went up a mountain by himself to pray v23

A storm develops with the wind against the disciples in the boat v24

Jesus walks on the water to them (shortly before dawn) v25

Disciples terrified thinking it was a ghost

Jesus says “Take courage. It is I. Don’t be afraid.” v26-27

Peter walks on the water v28-31

When his eyes are on Jesus all OK.

When his eyes turn toward the waves he begins to sink.

Jesus stretches out his hand to take hold of him

Jesus & Peter climb into boat, the storm calms v32

Those in the boat worshipped Jesus

‘truly you are the son of God!’ v33

“They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.” Mark 6 v51-52

Very soon they reach the shore (Gennesaret) v34

## Jesus the Bread of Life – John 6

Near Passover (John 6 v4) a time of strong nationalist feelings.

Jews saw Jesus as a political Messiah who would oust the Romans. Jesus' kingdom was spiritual with a focus beyond mortal life.

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty” v35

Jews knew about their history (Deut 8), manna in the wilderness.

“God humbled you, causing you to hunger & feeding you with manna . . . To teach you that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” v3



Feeding 5000 was partly to say 'one greater than Moses is here'

Jesus walking across water to the disciples makes us think of the Jewish nation's escape from Egypt through the sea

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh which I give for the life of the world" v51.

Don't think teeth & flesh!

But faith in Jesus, his death on the cross for sins & the bible's teaching are vital to the spiritual life of our eternal soul.  
More so than how bread is vital to the physical body.

Come to him, believe on him – this is eternal life.

# Lessons for us

## 1) Develop compassion.

Jesus & disciples weary yet when Jesus saw the crowds he had **compassion** on them & healed sick/taught them

It would have been so easy to say: “not today thank you!”

How compassionate are you?

## 2) Think big & offer God what you have.

Jesus exposes & tests the disciples faith “You feed them!”

They brought what little they had, he gives thanks, breaks the bread & multiplies the food. All are well fed & with 12 basketfuls left over (more than at the start)

There is a good principle of ministry here.

“The same kind of different as me” (Netflix/DVD)  
is a modern story of compassion & taking risks,  
offering small efforts to God resulting in  
significant good

An international art dealer (Ron Hall) and a  
dangerous drifter strike up an unusual friendship  
while Hall is trying to save his marriage with his  
wife Deborah.

Deborah's ambitions lead them all on the most  
remarkable journey of their lives.

### **3) Don't be overwhelmed & give up.**

We frequently look out on needs that are overwhelming.

We assess what we can do to help (in our own strength), think it just a drop in the ocean & get no further.

*(starfish parable)*

### **4) Remember in hard times God is there & he cares.**

The disciples in the boat faced a severe trial & felt alone.

Jesus was on a nearby hill praying & could see them (Mark 6 v48)

“because Jesus lives forever he has a permanent priesthood.

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”

Heb 7 v24-25

### **5) In hard times keep your focus on Jesus**

Peter was able to walk on the water

but when he saw the wind he began to sink.

## **6) Meditate on God's greatness & his love for you**

Had the disciples in the storm reflected on Jesus' limitless power or his particular choice of them to do kingdom work they may have reacted differently?

“ You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit & when I rise . . .” Psalm 139 v1-7

## **7) Worship Him**

They worshiped him saying ‘Truly you are the son of God!’

## **8) Feed on the bread of life**

Do you value Jesus & his word above all physical needs?

Have you come to Jesus & believed in him?

Nothing is more important. This is eternal life!