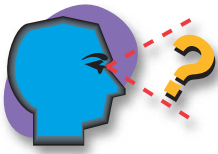


John



Responses to the Questions

NOTE: BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS YOURSELF BEFORE READING THE ANSWERS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS STUDY.

Read John 6:1-21

1. The crowds were amazed at the miracles and healings that Jesus performed and they followed him to see what he would do next.

John mentions the Passover because the miracle that Jesus is about to perform in feeding the 5,000 prefigures the "Eucharistic Passover" that Jesus will be instituting later. It is also meant to remind the reader of the first Passover when the Israelites were fed with the manna from heaven when they were in the desert.

2. Jesus is testing Philip's faith in order to strengthen it. By posing this question which Philip sees as having an impossible solution, Jesus is underling the fact that it would indeed take a miracle to solve. "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."(Mt. 19:26) This will be another sign that Jesus is truly the Son of God.
3. We are called to enter into his Sacrifice. The young boy offered his small part just as Jesus asks of all of us. Jesus can take the small things that we give him and perform miracles. (In the same way, Jesus can take our pain and suffering as well, if we offer it to him, and use it for good.)
4. The Lord has said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 18:3) Jesus wants us to have child-like hearts, unscathed by cynicism. This child did not stop to wonder how Jesus would use this food, but he willingly gave it to Jesus. He truly had a child-like faith, believing that Jesus could use his small offering. Andrew also apparently had a small amount of faith. The very fact that he even brought it up shows that he thought there may be some small chance that Jesus could do something with it, even though at the same time he questions how. The others didn't even make mention of it as they probably thought they would sound ridiculous.
5. In this miracle we see the foreshadowing of the Holy Eucharist. We are reminded of the priest lifting up the bread to heaven as Jesus does and giving thanks, blessing it and feeding the entire congregation, just as Jesus does here.
6. Jesus' miracle takes place at Passover time which is the feast that celebrates Moses freeing Israel from the bondage of slavery in Egypt; the five barley loaves are a sign of the five books of Moses. Moses parted the Red Sea so that the Israelites could safely travel to the other side. Jesus walks on the water to bring his disciples safely to the other shore.



Responses to the Questions (cont.)

7. Moses stated in Deuteronomy 18:15: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet."
8. This passage in Isaiah is speaking of the Messianic banquet: "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us." (Isaiah 25:6-10)
9. Because they believe he is the Messiah, but their perception of the Messiah was a secular one. They believed that the Messiah was coming to free them from the Romans who governed them. They saw the Messiah as an earthly king who would conquer Rome.

Jesus withdrew from the crowds because he did not come to rule an earthly kingdom. He does not have a political agenda but a salvific mission to accomplish.
10. Answers will vary. It is very possible that the Lord felt that his disciples would be influenced by the secular thinking of the crowd and therefore wanted to get them away from them. He didn't want his disciples to start thinking about making him a king. It is clear from Mark's account that they did not understand the miracle that he had performed with the loaves and fishes and that their minds were closed.(Mark 6:52) They had not yet come to understand.
11. As stated in the last answer, the disciples did not yet fully understand who Jesus was or what was his mission. They feared because they didn't understand that they were in the presence of God Who had power over the sea and all nature. They were astounded because they couldn't understand how this man that they knew could walk on water. The interesting addition is that Peter, our first pope, actually walked on water as well – if only for a short time, until he panicked for his lack of faith. (Matthew 14:28)