

# The Triumphant Life: Miracles, Meals, & Messages

Are you following Jesus because of what you've received or believed?

Following Messiah for the Miracles & Meals, or the Message?

## The Miracles

### **John 6:1-2 New Living Translation**

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

6 After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. 2 A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because **they saw** his miraculous signs as he healed the sick.

- A huge crowd kept following Jesus wherever He went, why?
- Whatever the crowds saw Jesus do became the reason they followed Him.
- What's your reason?
- Last week, we learned that we can turn to Him for triumph! He blesses and restores those who come to Him.
- But what keeps us following is it only the miracles? Are we following Jesus only for what He can do to enhance our lives?
- Everyone Jesus performed a miracle for eventually died, and those He raised from the dead died twice.
- Everything they saw Jesus do eventually became the reason they followed Him.

## The Meals

### **John 6:3-15 New Living Translation**

3 Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. 4 (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) 5 Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" 6 He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. 7 Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money[a] to feed them!" 8 Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. 9 "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" 10 "Tell everyone to sit down,"

Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. 12 After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” 13 So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves. 14 When **the people saw him**[b] do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!”[c] 15 When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

- Everything they saw Jesus do eventually became the reason they followed Him.

## More Miracles

### **John 6:16-21 New Living Translation Jesus Walks on Water**

16 That evening Jesus’ disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. 17 But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn’t come back, they got into the boat and headed across the lake toward Capernaum. 18 Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough. 19 They had rowed three or four miles[a] when suddenly **they saw** Jesus walking on the water toward the boat. They were terrified, 20 but he called out to them, “Don’t be afraid. I am here![b]” 21 Then they were eager to let him in the boat, and immediately they arrived at their destination!

## The Message

### **John 6:22-26 New Living Translation Jesus, the Bread of Life**

22 The next day the crowd that had stayed on the far shore saw that the disciples had taken the only boat, and they realized Jesus had not gone with them. 23 Several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the Lord had blessed the bread and the people had eaten.

- They went back looking for Jesus at the place He fed them, why?
- Everything they saw Jesus do eventually became the reason they followed Him.

- Is that what we're doing?

24 So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him. 25 They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

- The next verse is the first recorded time that Jesus addresses the crowd.
- The first day, we learned that people were following Him everywhere He went because they saw the miraculous signs.
- Now it's the second day, and Jesus reveals why they're still following.

26 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs.

- Are we following Jesus because He satisfies our needs?
- Jesus reveals here the truth that there's a message in the miracles.
- Every supernatural thing Jesus does for you is a sermon, so don't get caught up in what you've seen. What is He saying?

- **Ephesians 2:8 New King James Version**

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

- How are we saved? By grace through what? Faith!
- **Romans 10:17 New King James Version**
- So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- The miracles and the meals cannot save men; it is the message alone!

**John 6:27-66 New Living Translation**

27 But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man[a] can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval." 28 They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?" 29 Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

- Jesus tells them three things there that we can never afford to miss.

1. Don't be concerned about perishable things.

2. Seek the eternal life that only He gives.
3. Believe the message!

30 They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? 31 After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.' [b]"

- What???? The entire reason they followed Him was because of the signs they were seeing!
- This proves that true faith, true believing, comes only from receiving the message, not the miracles or meals!

32 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. 33 The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

- There's the message! Jesus Christ was sent by God to give His life to the world!
- How? By offering His body, and blood on the cross!

34 "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day." 35 Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 But you haven't believed in me even though you have seen me. 37 However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. 38 For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. 39 And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. 40 For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."

- There's the good "Homecoming" news! Eternal life!
- Here's the progression we've followed Jesus through for the "Triumphant Life."
- Born again/ born of the Spirit just as Jesus was.
- Baptised in water.
- Baptised in the Holy Spirit.

- Led by the Spirit.
- Sacrificing our lives.
- Raised from the dead.

41 Then the people[c] began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42 They said, “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, ‘I came down from heaven’?” 43 But Jesus replied, “Stop complaining about what I said. 44 For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. 45 As it is written in the Scriptures,[d] ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. 46 (Not that anyone has ever seen the Father; only I, who was sent from God, have seen him.)

- Jesus reiterates that only those who receive and believe the messages can truly come to Him.
- Anyone can follow, but only the believers can be with Him!

47 “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. 48 Yes, I am the bread of life! 49 Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. 50 Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh.” 52 Then the people began arguing with each other about what he meant. “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” they asked. 53 So Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. 54 But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. 57 I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever.” 59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. 60 Many of his disciples said, “This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?” 61 Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, “Does this offend you? 62 Then what will you think if you see

the Son of Man ascend to heaven again? 63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But some of you do not believe me.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn’t believe, and he knew who would betray him.) 65 Then he said, “That is why I said that people can’t come to me unless the Father gives them to me.” 66 At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.

- The miracles and meals cause people to congregate, but the message separates!
- Have you truly received and believed the hard and offensive messages of Jesus Christ?
- Do you believe what He said, or only follow because of what you saw Him do for you when you turned to Him?

- **Luke 14:25-27 Amplified Bible**

25 Now large crowds were going along with Jesus; and He turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to Me, and does not [a]hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life [in the sense of indifference to or relative disregard for them in comparison with his attitude toward God]—he cannot be My disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry his own cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow after Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] cannot be My disciple.

### **John 6:67-69 New Living Translation**

67 Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?” 68 Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. 69 We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.[e]”

- Peter didn’t say you have the miracles or meals, but the words/message that gives eternal life, and we believe!

## True Disciples

### **Matthew 7:21-29 New Living Translation**

21 “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ 23 But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’ 24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” 28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.