

Misunderstood Miracles

Mark 6:33-56

Miracle on the land—Jesus feeds the five thousand, 33-44

- ◆ Only this miracle and the resurrection miracle are in all four gospels.
- ◆ R&R plans are shot because the crowds follow; only Mark notes they *were like sheep w/o a shepherd*. The lessons here? Jn. 21:15,16.
- ◆ Mark alone records yet another seemingly frustrated response by the 12, (v.37), recall 1:37, 4:38, 5:31. 5,000 is just men, see Matt. 14:21.
- ◆ What did the crowds understand from this miracle? Jn. 6:14,15

What did the 12 apparently understand from this miracle? Mk. 6:52.

What should we understand about serving God from this miracle?

Miracle on the lake—Jesus walks on water, 45-56

- ◆ This = 2nd of 3x times Jesus goes off to pray alone, 1:35, 14:35ff.
- ◆ This = 2nd struggle at sea (4:35ff.). See Matt.14:24 for conditions.
- ◆ Matthew alone tells of Peter's sinking episode, yet he is more positive concerning the 12 (14:33). Only Mark makes the ultra-negative comment in v. 52, In addition to their "frustrated responses" also see 4:12,13, 7:18, 8:17,32, 9:32, 10:13,14,35 and passion-week failures. Why is Mark ever showing the 12's misunderstandings and foul-ups?
- ◆ As soon as they land the needy crowds show up; note the emphasis on healing from touching Jesus' cloak recalls the woman of 5:28-30.

What should we understand when serving God becomes difficult?

