Interpretation – What does it mean?

Gospel of John 6:14 – 33

New American Standard Version

1 Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, 2 they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the 3 world." So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and 4 take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the 5 mountain by Himself alone. Now when evening came, His 6 disciples went down to the sea, and after getting into a boat, they 7 started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, 8 and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea began to be stirred up 9 because a strong wind was blowing. Then, when they had rowed 10 about three or four miles, they *saw Jesus walking on the sea and 11 drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. But He *said 12 to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." So they were willing to receive 13 Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to 14 which they were going. The next day the crowd that stood on the 15 other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, 16 except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into 17 the boat, but *that* His disciples had gone away alone. There came 18 other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate 19 the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw 20 that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into 21 the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. When they 22 found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, 23 when did You get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, 24 truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but 25 because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for the 26 food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, 27 which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, 28 God, has set His seal." Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we 29 do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him 30 31 whom He has sent." So they said to Him, "What then do You do 32 for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do 33 You perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is 34 written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'" Jesus 35 then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who 36 has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who 37 gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that 38 which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."

Observation:

Circle all the actions of the disciples. Underline all the actions of the crowd. Box Jesus' responses to both groups.

Interpretation:

How would you describe the attitude of the disciples toward Jesus?

How would you describe the attitude of the crowd toward Jesus?

What other questions does this passage raise for you? Anything that seems unusual to you?

Application:

What do you see in the disciples and/or the crowd that might affect your relationship with Jesus?

What do you learn about Jesus from His responses to both groups? How does that apply to your relationship with Him?

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Questions for further thinking:

• John seems to think geography is important enough to include a fair amount of detail. Where have we seen this before in John's Gospel? Why do you think John keeps doing this? Is it helpful to you in following the passage?



• If the crowd was already thinking about Moses and "The Prophet" from Jesus providing bread, what image might they get from Him miraculously crossing the sea?