

GOSPEL OF JOHN 6:15-25

The feeding of the 5,000 is a drawing of Moses and the feeding of the people with Manna from heaven. Jesus now reveals Himself as God using the Divine Name "I AM"

¹⁵Then Jesus, having known that they were about to come and seize Him in order that they might make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain Himself alone.

"By departing alone to the mountain He asserts to us the importance of our withdrawal from the world, from time to time, to meet God in secret talk and to enjoy holy silence. Our service of others, no matter how important it is, should not waste for us our personal secret worship. (Fr. Tadros Malaty, Commentary Gospel of John)."

"But Jesus flees. Why? To teach us to despise worldly dignities and to show us He needed nothing on earth (Chrysostom) "Let us rather seek after holy humility giving preference to one another (Cyril of Alexandria)."

¹⁶And when it became evening, His disciples went down to the sea; ¹⁷and having embarked into the ship, they were going across the sea to Capernaum. And already it had become dark, and Jesus had not come to them.

Cyril of Alexandria: "Those who are not with Jesus are in a fierce tempest of a storm. They are cut off from Him or at least seem to be absent from Him...because of their sin they are separated from the one Who is able to save. If then, it is overwhelming to be in such spiritual darkness...let us then receive Jesus."

¹⁸And the sea was stirred up by a great wind blowing. ¹⁹Then after they had rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia (3 miles), they see Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the ship; and they became afraid.

Note: According to Josephus the historian the lake was about 5 miles wide. As for its length, it was about 18 miles.

Augustine: "As the end of the world draws near, errors increase, terrors multiply, iniquity abounds and infidelity escalates...Nevertheless the wind, and storm and waves. And darkness was not able to stop and sink the vessel. For the one who endures to the end shall be saved...so great are the tribulations that even those who have trusted in Jesus and who strive to persevere to the end greatly fear lest they fail..."

Isaiah of Scete: "In storms and squalls we need a pilot, and in this present life we need prayer, for we are susceptible to the provocations of our thoughts, both good and bad. If our thought is full of devotion and love of God, it rules over the passions."

- ❖ Three miracles: Jesus walking on the sea, the calming of the storm and their immediate arrival on the other side (Bishop Gerasimos)."

²⁰But He said to them, “I am; cease being afraid.”

Cyril of Alexandria: “For the grace of our savior does not come to us when our tribulations begin but when our fear is at its height and the danger shows itself to be great – when we are found ...in affliction. Then, Christ appears unexpectedly and removes our fear and frees us from all danger. By His ineffable power He changes horror into joy and ...calms the storm...Christ delivers us from all danger and the accomplishment of achievements beyond hope to those who receive Him.”

Jn. 6:20.] Blessed Theophylact, “He says, ‘I AM,’ that is, ‘I ever abide, and as God, I am that I am [Ex. 3:14].’” [P.G. 123:586A (col. 1293).]

²¹Then they were willing to receive Him into the ship; and straightway the ship came to be at the land to which they were going.

Theodore of Mopsuestia: “In order to increase the miracle before their eyes, he walked on the water and did not get into the boat...while they tried to bring Him in, both the boat and the Lord reached land at an awesome speed.”

²²On the morrow, the crowd which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one into which His disciples entered, and that Jesus did not enter together with His disciples into the little boat, but *that His disciples went away alone—²³but there came little boats from Tiberias, near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord gave thanks.²⁴When the crowd therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves also embarked into the ships and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵And after they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when didst Thou arrive here?”*

❖ The people expected to find Jesus knowing he did not enter the boat with the disciples and John is making a connection with the Eucharist in what is to follow later in the chapter (Bishop Gerasimos).

❖ Chrysostom: the people infer that Jesus crossed the sea by walking on it

Chrysostom: “What did the multitude anticipate, except that He came there walking on the sea? It was not possible that He took another boat, for the evangelist says that there was one boat only, that which the disciples entered. Therefore, when they came to Him after great astonishment, they did not ask Him how He crossed the sea or how He arrived there. They did not want to understand such a great miracle. What did they say then? ‘Rabbi, when did You come here?’

“He who walks on the sea as if on dry land (Job 9:8) ”