

The One equal with God (2)

Introduction

In John chapter 6 we encounter the familiar story of the feeding of the multitude, a story which is rich in Old Testament allusion and fundamental to our understanding of who Jesus is. The story is told in the Synoptic Gospels as well, but John alone records Jesus' teaching about Himself as the Bread of Life. The miraculous feeding causes the crowd to attempt to make Jesus "king by force" (John 6vs15). This results in another strategic withdrawal by Jesus, itself involving a miraculous sign witnessed only by the disciples (John 6vs16-25). Then follows Jesus' teaching addressed to both crowds and disciples and the remarkable claim that Jesus is none other than the LORD who fed Israel in the wilderness and who has now entered our world to die to give us true Life.

Study Questions

These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying. This is a vital first step towards understanding what the section means. The questions should be answered from the text itself.

Read John 6vs1-40. Answer the following questions:

1. In what context does the miraculous feeding occur? (John 6vs1-3)
2. Why did Jesus question the disciples about bread?
3. What conclusion did the people draw from the feeding of the multitude? (John 6vs14) What did they want to do as a result? How does Jesus respond?

