

GRACE
SO AMAZING
FOLLOW

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TO FOLLOW JESUS

Jn. 6:66-69

Jn. 6:66 From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

This chapter is lengthy and contains many events to consider. Beyond the obvious, an underlying consideration is why do people follow the Savior? The chapter begins with an explanation why many followed Him over the Sea of Galilee. As we observe this chapter, consider which is worse – a person who follows the Lord for the wrong reason or a person who states openly that there is no interest at all in following Christ? The person who openly denies Christ reveals the spiritual heart condition. The person who follows the Lord for the wrong reason is deceitful to others, such as family, church, and worst of all...to self.

“Dr. B. R. Lakin estimated that 75% are lost. W. A. Criswell would be surprised to see even 25% of his church members in heaven. Dr. Bob Gray, longtime pastor of the prestigious Trinity Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Florida, once said that probably 75% of those he baptized were not saved. Billy Graham puts the figure at 85% while A. W. Tozer and Southern Baptist consultant Jim Elliff raise it to 90%.”

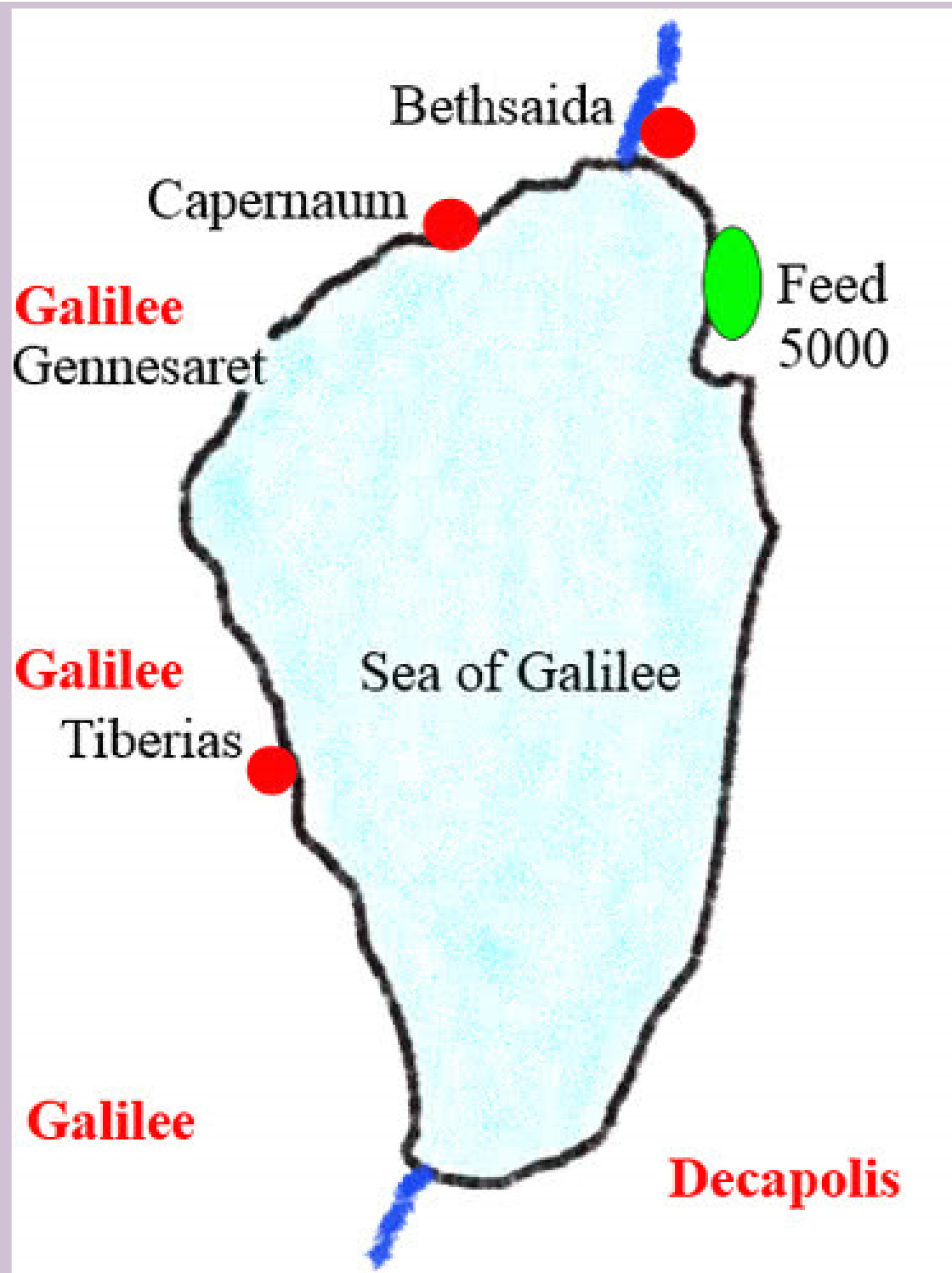
<https://unsavedbeliever.net/index.php/how-many-are-not-saved/#:~:text=The%20consensus%20seems%20to%20be%20around%2070%20to,be%20true%20Christian%20believers%20may%20not%20be%20saved>

I. SOME PEOPLE FOLLOW THE LORD JESUS FOR SENSATIONALISM, Jn. 6:1-4

A. The Trip and the Following, 6:1-2

Jn. 6:1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is *the sea* of Tiberias.

2 And **a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did** on them that were diseased.



- ❖ Galilee was a special region for Jesus. It is the land on the left-hand side (or west bank) of the sea of Galilee.
- ❖ Twenty-five of His 33 great miracles happened in Galilee as well as 19 of His 32 parables being spoken there. Galilee was the province on the west bank of the Sea of Galilee.
- ❖ As Jesus traveled over the Sea of Galilee, many followed Him “...because they saw the miracles which he did...” (Jn. 6:2.)
- ❖ The prosperity gospel will always be popular.
- ❖ Sincerity is NOT the correct gauge for true spirituality. Those who followed Jesus across the Sea of Galilee were sincerely interested in seeing more miracles.

B. The Time for Fellowship, 6:3

Jn. 6:3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

- ❖ Followers of Jesus may be within the vicinity of the Savior but are not always included in close fellowship with Him

II. SOME PEOPLE FOLLOW THE LORD JESUS FOR SELFISHNESS

A. The Evaluation of the Situation

Jn. 6:4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

5 When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, **Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?**

6 And **this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.**

- ❖ With the Passover being near, Jesus was considering the need of the multitude.
- ❖ Jesus asked Philip's opinion in regard to evaluating the situation – "...Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"
- ❖ Note the motive of the Lord Jesus: "And this he said to prove him..."

Original Word: πειράζω **Transliteration:** peirazó

Definition: to make proof of, to attempt, test, tempt;

Usage: I try, tempt, test.

peirázō – originally to *test*, to *try* which was its usual meaning in the ancient Greek.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3985.htm>

- ❖ Jesus tested Philip without revealing it.
- ❖ Challenges are opportunities to find solutions, even though Jesus “...himself know what he would do.”

B. The Estimation of the Solution

Jn. 6:7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

- ❖ Philip's answer was to consider the expense, not find a solution.
- ❖ Andrew observed a limited possibility to solve the challenge but questioned the feasibility of it.

Jn. 6:8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

❖ Jesus made His point that there was a great need with no apparent solution.

❖ Jesus was the solution.

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

C. The Establishment of the Satisfaction

Jn. 6:10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. **So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.**

11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13 Therefore they gathered *them* together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

- ❖ Jesus organized the crowd before supplying the solution.
- ❖ The crowd was to “sit down” as “there was much grass in the place.” (While feeding the 4,000 the crowd sit down on the ground, Mt. 15:35.)
- ❖ The feeding of the 5000 men is the only miracle that is recorded in all four Gospels.
- ❖ When Jesus directs the solution, everyone is taken care of.

III. SOME PEOPLE FOLLOW THE LORD JESUS DUE TO SUPPOSITION

A. The Application Of The Miracle

Jn. 6:14 Then **those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.**

- ❖ The religious crowd connected the dots to Deut. 18:18 and planned to act upon the possibility that Jesus was the expected reigning Messiah.

B. The Avoidance Of The Misapplication

Jn. 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, **he departed again into a mountain himself alone.**

- ❖ The Lord Jesus knew the intention of the crowd to make Him a king and “departed again into a mountain himself alone.”
- ❖ Zeal cannot overshadow nor negate God’s timing.
- ❖ Spiritual clarity must precede spiritual activity in following the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary

- ❖ There were many followers of Jesus at the feeding of the 5,000.
- ❖ The motives varied between sensationalism, selfishness, and true believers.
 - Jn. 6:2 “And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did...”
 - In Jn. 6:26, Jesus said, “...Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.”
 - Jn. 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, **Will ye also go away?**
68 Then Simon Peter answered him, **Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.**
69 And we believe and are sure that **thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**
- ❖ Are you following Christ? Why?

Conclusion

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Jn. 10:2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

4 And **when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.**

5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.