

## **BBC - 10/13/24-AM - Home Bible Study Outline – “A Gospel Depiction of the Church Age”**

**Today's study** is found in: [Matthew 14:14-34](#); [Mark 6:34-53](#) [Luke 9:11-17](#); [John 6:1-21](#)

Jesus feeding 5000 *with* 5 loaves of bread & 2 small fishes is the only miracle recorded in all 4 Gospels  
This special miracle, & events that followed, depict a parallel picture from start to end of the Church Age

We know that Jesus came to earth as a sinless man to: Fulfil the Father's Salvation mission of sinful mankind; to pay for mankind's sin by his crucifixion death & resurrection; and to establish His Church.  
At the end of the Age, Jesus will return to rapture His Church, and thereafter establish His Kingdom.  
In today's "Gospel Depiction" sermon, we can see a panoramic view of the full Church Age mission.

**Typology** - To understand the parallel symbolism discovered in the events of Jesus' miracles of feeding multitude & walking on the water, *and* the Church Age, we must look at the chronology and define some of the typology:

Tiberias = The Capitol city of Galilee, built by Herod Antipas in honor of Tiberius (2<sup>nd</sup> Emperor of Rome).

Capernaum = A city on the north side of the Sea of Galilee that served as Jesus' earthly home base.

Feeding of 5,000+ = Jesus' compassionate *earthly ministry* of teaching God's Word and healing.

5 Loaves = Bread is a type of *God's Word*. [Ephesians 4:11](#) lists Word-based *5-fold Church ministries*.

2 Fishes = Symbolic of the *two types of gifts* God gave to mankind: *natural aptitudes & spiritual gifts*.

Ship & Sea = The Church launched by Jesus to transverse the whole world with the Gospel message.

The Ship is a type of the *Church*. Sea waters represent all the *people* of the world ([Isa 17:12](#)).

Constraining the Disciples to enter the ship & cross over typifies the *Great Commission*.

The mandated journey is from Tiberias (*a type of the world*), to Capernaum (*a type of heaven*).

The Church Age is typified by this journey; from Jesus' *early launch*, to Jesus' *latter rescue*.

The final 7 years of time is also seen in this nearly 7-mile journey from Tiberias to Capernaum.

Prayer Mountain – After sending the disciples, Jesus' departure up into a mountain = His *Ascension*.

Jesus praying on that mountain = depiction of Jesus' *intercession* for His Church at God's right hand.

From the mountain (*heaven*) Jesus can view his disciples in the ship on the sea (*earth*).

- [Romans 8:34](#); [Matthew 28:20b](#) – *I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

When evening came, Jesus saw that the disciples were *mid-way* on their sea journey ([Mk 6:47](#))

- [Daniel 9:27](#) & [Matthew 24:15,21](#) – Intense tribulation begins at *mid-point* of "70<sup>th</sup> Week."

Jesus, seeing contrary winds & dangerous waves; departs to them from the mountain ([Mk 6:48](#))

The contrary winds & dangerous waves = a type of un-survivable end-time *tribulation* ([Mt 24:22](#))

Appx 25-30 furlongs of rowing ([Jn 6:19](#)) out of the total 50.64 f. is past the mid-point of their journey.

Jesus came walking on the water towards the disciples = *Appearance* of Jesus Christ ([Mt 24:29-30](#))

Disciples cried out with hardened hearts from fear = Fear at appearance of Christ ([Lk 21:26-27](#))

- When they cried out, Jesus didn't pass them by but came & comforted them ([Mk 6:49-50](#))

Wind ceased as Jesus entered ship = Jesus *cut those days short for Elects' sake* ([Mt 24:21-22](#))

Then immediately the ship arrived at its destination = The *Rapture of the Church* ([Mt 24:31](#); [1Co 15:52](#))

**Discussion:** 1) How does feeding the 5,000+ (*with left-overs*) typify Jesus' earthly & Church ministry?  
2) How is the Ascension seen in Jesus' dispatching the disciples, *then* up to a mountain?  
3) According to [Rom 8:34](#) & [Heb 7:25](#), what is Jesus doing right now at God's right hand?  
4) How is the sitting/standing contrast of [Heb 1:3](#) / [Acts 7:55](#) show Christ's attentiveness?  
5) How does Jesus miraculously come for his disciples when they are about to perish?  
6) When Jesus came to the disciples walking on water, was Peter's heart also hardened?  
7) How is the Rapture clearly seen in [John 6:21](#), when *instantly* they arrived to shore?  
8) In light of this glorious salvation made available to us by grace, what does [Heb 2:3](#) admonish us NOT to do?