

I need a Miracle Part 4 Feeding of the Multitude with the Loaves and Fishes

Message to Conversation Guide

John 6:1-15

1 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, 9 “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” NIV

Discussion Questions

1. The multitude that came to see Jesus around the Sea of Galilee had mixed motives for being there. One driving factor was that they wanted to see him do miracles and meet their physical needs. Discuss the various motivations that we have for coming to church and or watching church online and the verse and statement below.

“and **a great crowd of people followed him** because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick” John 5: 2

True worship involves making Jesus the center of our focus and passion.

2. Paul warned against the celebration of personalities in ministry at the expense of being focused on Jesus.

1 Cor 1:12-17

12 What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. NIV

2 Cor 4:7

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. NIV

John 12:20-22

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. NIV

3. The story of the feeding of the 5000 is about a need verses resource battle. In the story Jesus takes what is not enough and makes it more than enough. Discuss some of the things in life that we don’t have enough of:
 - Money
 - Time
 - Patience
 - Strength during COVID-19
 - Friends
4. In this story Jesus is the great resource multiplier. What limited resource do you need to place in his hand for him to multiply for you?
5. Paul was in prison when he wrote the book of Philippians. His extended prison stay could be related to our COVID-19 experience. Paul said he could endure by the strength of Christ Jesus. Discuss how we can lean into the strength of the Lord during COVID-19 to find power beyond our human strength.

Phil 4:12-13

12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength. NIV, 2011