

## Walking with Jesus Part 8

### John 6

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

<sup>5</sup> 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?” <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

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

<sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, **Andrew**, Simon Peter’s brother, **spoke up**,

<sup>9</sup> “**Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish**, but how far will they go among so many?”

<sup>10</sup> 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). <sup>11</sup> 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.

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

### Vs. 1-3

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

### Pics: Church of the Multiplication

- All 4 Gospels record the Miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand.
- In Matthew’s Gospel it says that Jesus healed their sick.
- In Mark’s Gospel it says that Jesus taught them.

- This account is similar in some ways to the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 where it says: “Now when he saw the crowd, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him and he began to teach them, saying:”
- The word mountainside is also translated hillside...
- If you go to Israel, coming from Colorado you will most likely agree, hillside is better translation of the word according to how we think of mountains.

The parallel here is that there were people who wanted something from Jesus and it says that Jesus went up the hillside and then he sat down...

I believe this tells us something about God:

1. He didn't make it easy, He didn't greet them on the shore. He didn't heal them on the shore. He didn't teach them on the shore. He climbs the hillside.
2. The question is are we willing to climb the hill?
3. Jesus climbs the hill, he sits down and let's them catch Him...

### **Jeremiah 29:13**

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

### **Vs. 5-7**

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?” <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup> **Philip answered him**, “*It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!*”

Do you see what's happening here?

There is a need coming...

And the need is great...

Jesus identifies the need...

God will do that...

Before the need presents itself, God identifies it to certain ones...

**Vs. 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?” Jesus didn’t speak to everyone about the need.

- **he said to Philip**, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”
- It’s interesting that Jesus asks Phillip specifically about the need.

Two thoughts there:

- Some believe that Phillip had a unique roll among the disciples. We know Judas we know was the treasurer. They believe Phillip was kind of a manager or detail person with the group of disciples. He was responsible to organize and keep things together.
- Perhaps Jesus asked **Philip** this question because Phillip was from this area. Because of that Phillip had perspective of what it would take in that to handle the need there.

Vs 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!”*

- I believe perhaps are the reason why Jesus spoke to Phillip about the need before anyone else.
- It pertained to him.
- Not everyone is positioned to see the need the way Phillip did.

### **Vs. 6**

“He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.”

- Isn’t it good to know God has a plan.
- Just because we see the need doesn’t mean we have to figure it out.
- As a matter of fact Jesus doesn’t do it the way Phillip thinks he will.
- Phillip has witnessed Jesus doing miracles. But Jesus is about to do something Phillip has never seen.
- Jesus knew what miracle He was about to perform, but wanted to use the opportunity to teach His disciples. For Jesus this wasn’t only about getting a job done (feeding the multitude), but also about teaching His disciples along the way.

## Vs. 8,9

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?"

So notice this:

1 see's the need

1 see's the means

1 is part of the provision

Phillip see's the need

Andrew sees the means

The boy is part of the provision

Andrew speaks up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish

That may seem insignificant and even silly that Andrew highlights this little boys lunch when the need was so great.

I can see the other disciples possibly rolling their eyes...

There probably agreeing with Phillip...

But what Andrew saw was supernatural...

Here me God will anoint some to:

see's the need

see's the means

be part of the provision

This was a meal suited for a boy...

5 small barley loaves: flat bread about the size of a pita bread

5 small fish: Small fish, doesn't mean alaskan salmon. They were small fish that you would eat with bread.

Doesn't it seem crazy that Jesus would take a little boys lunch and use it to feed a multitude.

That's exactly what he does.

Look what God can do with a sack lunch...

He uses small, insignificant things and does miracles.  
He uses small, insignificant people and does miracles.

God will take your and your offering and do a miracles with it.

God stretches your offering...

If you are the offering he will stretch you...

If you give to God an offering he will stretch it...

## **2 Corinthians 9 (Paul on Giving)**

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

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Paul's Prayer:

10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness...

**If you are the offering he will stretch you...**

**If you give God an offering he will stretch it...**

## **Vs. 10-13 NKJV**

10 Then Jesus said, "Make the people 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 *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." 13 Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

10 Jesus said, "Make the people sit down..."

11 And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down;

There is something very important here.

Jesus feeds the multitude in a way that is in order...

It wasn't chaotic...

It wasn't each man to himself or for himself...

This is a picture of how Jesus feeds his people.

An early picture of how Jesus not only feeds this multitude but his Church.

First - He makes the people sit down...

Second - He is thankful... (Not only for the means but the people)

Third - He distributes to his disciples...

Fourth - His disciples distribute to the people sitting down in groups...

Fifth - Nothing goes to waste...

Closing:

God sees the need before you do.

God has the answer, before you do.

This is only a test.

God can stretch something into a miracle.

In Gods hands insufficiency becomes sufficiency.

What is not enough becomes more than enough.