

The Journey

Series 04: Christ

Week 38: Jesus Provides – Feeding of the 5,000

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We Have Been)

We've been discovering the **true** identity of Jesus as God.

Because Jesus is God, He...

- **Teaches with Authority** (because He perfectly *knows* God's Word and *is* God)
- **Forgives Sin**
- **Demonstrates Power over the Physical Realm** (heals people)
- **Demonstrates Power over the Spirit Realm** (power over the enemy)
- **Calls People to Be Born Again** (provides the way to new and eternal life)

Today, we'll see His true identity as the One who **provides eternal life.**

BIG Idea

Let's clarify WHY (or with what motive) we wrongly come to God for rescue.

- Provide all our needs (and sometimes wants)
- Heal our disease and sickness
- Remove every hardship
- Get us out of sticky situations

We often fail to recognize that our FIRST and greatest need is to be forgiven of sin, and have our relationship with God restored.

Provision, healing, avoiding hardship, and delivery from emergencies are NOT what should motivate us to come to God, but they *may* be the benefits.

It doesn't mean that God *won't* provide these things, but they shouldn't be the reason or the motive of why we come to Him.

Illustration – Marriage or Relationships

Which comes first - relationship or benefits?

Jesus helps us discern our motive through presenting a contrast between physical provision and spiritual provision.

Information (What We Need to Know)

Two “Food” Provisions of Jesus...

- **Provision of Physical Food** – *Jesus Provides Food for 5,000 (more like 20,000)*
 - ✓ **Large crowds followed Jesus** (because of what He could do, not who He was)
John 6:1 (ESV) After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. **2** And a large crowd was following him, **because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick.** **3** Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. **4** Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.
The crowds didn't follow out of belief, but benefit.
 - ✓ **Jesus asks the disciples how they would feed the large crowd** (approx. 20,000)
John 6:5 (ESV) Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” **6** He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. **7** Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.”
 - Jesus knew what He was going to do, but wanted to see if Philip and the disciples would depend on Him to provide (they had seen His miracles)
 - Philip's response totally denied Jesus' ability to provide
 - ✓ **Andrew found five loaves of bread and two fish** (didn't trust Jesus to provide)
John 6:8 (ESV) Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, **9** “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?”
 - ✓ **Jesus multiplied the loaves of bread and the fish** (because He was God)
John 6:10 (ESV) Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” ...So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. **11** Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” **13** So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.
 - ✓ **The crowd wanted to make Jesus their king, but He didn't allow it**
John 6:14 (ESV) When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!” **15** Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Moses predicted the coming of the Prophet. If the Prophet was to be like Moses, it made sense that he would also feed the people miraculously as Moses did. They wanted a Deliverer who met physical/political needs, not spiritual ones.

■ **Provision of Spiritual Food** – *Jesus Provides Eternal Life*

- ✓ Jesus discerns their motive for seeking Him (benefits, not relationship)

John 6:25 (ESV) When they found him [the next day] on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” **26** Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.”

- ✓ Jesus tells them to seek spiritual food – works vs. belief

John 6:27 (ESV) Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures [remains] to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” **28** Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” **29** Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

“Because of their sin people cannot please God by doing good works for salvation. God demands that people recognize their inability to save themselves and receive His gift [of eternal life].” – Bible Knowledge Commentary

- ✓ The people wanted more spectacular miracles (food in the wilderness 40 years)

John 6:30 (ESV) So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? **31** Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

- ✓ Jesus would give them the Word of God and eternal life through Himself

John 6:32 (ESV) Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

“As God the Father had given food in the wilderness so the Israelites would not die physically, God had given the bread from Heaven so that people would not die spiritually. Jesus was referring to Himself; He is the bread that was sent by God to give eternal life to those who put their trust in Him.” – Firm Foundations

Application (What We Need to Do)

How do we receive new and eternal life?

John 6:34 (ESV) They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” **35** Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

“Jesus is the *bread of life* because He nourishes people spiritually and satisfies the deep spiritual longings of their souls. Those who trust in Him shall not hunger; that is, their spiritual longing to know God will be satisfied.” – ESV Study Bible