



JOHN CHAPTER 6

14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Jn 6:14.

Loaves and fishes... A famous Sunday school story but what does it actually mean for us today? What is the deeper message here? The key is in the test. Philip was tested by Jesus when he was asked where they could buy bread for this multitude of people. An important note is that an all-knowing God isn't going to ask you for advice. Rather, Jesus was trying to (again) shift their minds from the physical and natural to the spiritual. The disciples approached the problem by first looking at their physical resources before even considering their spiritual resources in God. How often do we fall into that trap? How many times do we try to scrape together a solution without even considering God's solution? Further what the disciples thought was 'too little' is often more than enough for God when we give it all to Him.

Later we see Jesus send His disciples away and retreat from all the people following Him. While not explicitly stated in this chapter, Jesus often retreated into solitude to spend time with the Father in prayer. Perhaps a pressing question is; how often do we follow that example? Do we have our own time with Jesus? Or is our only spiritual bread on Sunday mornings or in gatherings with others?

Read John 6:1-21 How does this section of John 6 prove or demonstrate the Divinity of Christ? What Old Testament stories would the Jewish audience have remembered here? (Key vs 14-15)

Discussion Questions

1. The great multitude followed Jesus because of the signs he performed. Why are you following Jesus?
2. Jesus will never ask us for advice. When He asks us for something, a lesson is usually involved: What was the lesson for Philip here? How have you been 'tested' by God in a similar way?
3. Andrew brought a solution to Jesus, knowing that it was insufficient. How often do we feel that our own talents or resources are 'not enough'? How can giving them to God lift that burden?
4. Jesus is often seen retreating into solitude for prayer, What does your quiet time look like? Is there a difference between corporate worship (Gathering together) and private worship? How do you spend one-on-one time with Jesus?
5. What lesson is God teaching you through your trials? What lessons has He taught you? If you don't know what lesson you are learning now, how can the lessons of the past or of others encourage you through your current trials and tests?