

## Signs

### **Feeding the Crowd**

John 6:1-14

July 30, 2017 pm

HDBC

John's purpose in writing his gospel is stated in John 20:30-31

*Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that, believing you may have life in His name.*

**Signs are designed** to point us in the right direction. In his gospel, John records seven miracles performed by Jesus. These point to His divine nature. John wrote his account of the life of Christ, including those miracles, to clearly point out that Jesus is the divine Son of God. **John's desire** was that the readers of his gospel would believe that Jesus is the Christ and through that belief would have eternal life.

**Only God can do miracles.** Jesus did miracles. Therefore, Jesus must be God.

Jesus turned **water into wine** during a wedding in Cana.

Jesus **healed a man's son** who was sick with a serious fever.

Jesus **healed a man** who had been an invalid for 38 years.

**Once again we find Jesus doing the supernatural. John 6:1-14**

**It happens in thousands** of homes across America. Mom gets the kids up for school then goes to the kitchen takes out a piece of ham, a glob of peanut butter and jelly, or maybe some left over roast beef, and smashes it between two pieces of bread. She then puts it in a clear plastic bag drops it in a sack along with an apple and some cookies. If the kid is lucky she'll toss in a Twinkie or cupcake. Then shoves it into the hands of her child as he goes out the door.

**And how does he feel about it?** He has a **love/hate relationship** with it. Hates having to fool with it all morning, but come lunch time, he has warmed up to the idea. Of course most kids don't just open the bag and eat, they **compare, trade and sell**. **School cafeteria is a good training ground for business.** Where else can you trade a Twinkie for slice of pizza.

**Moms have been making** sack lunches for long time. In fact it was a little boy's sack lunch that **stole the show** during one of Jesus' biggest rally's.

## READ the TEXT – John 6:1-14

**These verses** tell us that a miracle occurred. That was not that unusual about Jesus. He did many miracles. This one was unique.

1. It is the only one recorded in all four gospels.
2. Quantity of witnesses. 5,000 plus saw it.
3. Strictly initiated by Jesus. They did not ask to be fed.

**Before we get into** the details of the story, I want to show you some things that were not present for this miracle.

1. No extraordinary faith on part of disciples, just mediocre faith.
2. No great amount of talent or resources.
3. No money - nobody had to send money to Jesus to get miracle.

### 1. The Compassion of Jesus (1-5)

Matthew adds that Jesus had just heard the news about the death of his cousin, John. He withdrew, alone, to a desolate place. He needed time to be alone. But the crowds found out where he was and quickly gathered there.

**Matthew also adds that Jesus *had compassion on them*.** He healed the sick and taught them throughout the day. This happened at the end of a long day.

**Mark adds that Jesus viewed them as *sheep without a shepherd*.** He knew that the religious leaders had failed in their responsibility to lead the people into a right relationship with God. They needed someone teach, lead, feed and protect them. He would ultimately be that good shepherd.

**It was a day** spent acting as the good shepherd. Teaching, healing, and now feeding them. **Don't miss the compassion** of Jesus. Christ noticed their need. As He looked over multitude He must have seen many needs, but their most pressing need was for food. **They were hungry.**

**He would** not ignore their most critical need.

**Raymond Dunn** born in 1975 with all kinds of disabilities. He experienced up to twenty seizures a day. Blind, mute, immobile. Severe allergies limited him to only one type of food. Meat-based formula made by Gerber foods.

**1985 Gerber stopped making it.** Carol Dunn scoured the country to buy what stores had in stock. Accumulated many cases. In 1990 her supply ran out. Without that food her son would starve to death.

**Employees of the company** volunteered to donate hundreds of hours to bring out old equipment, set up production lines, and obtain special approval from the USDA to produce the formula for one special boy.

**He died in January 1995** and will forever be known as the Gerber boy. His story demonstrates great compassion of group of people for a single boy.

**So, Jesus had compassion on the people.** Keep something in mind . . .

**Most of** those would never become disciples of Christ. They would reject Him and see Him placed on a cross. He knew that, but had compassion on them.

## **2. The Impossible Situation (5-7)**

Jesus asks Philip where they could buy food to feed the crowd. Philip was not concerned with where to buy, but with the funds. 8 month's pay would not be enough to feed this group.

HUNGRY CROWD, NO FOOD, NO MARKET, NO MONEY.

In his question to Philip, Jesus was doing several things . . .

- 1) He was teaching the disciples to notice the needs of others
- 2) He was pointing out the impossibility of the situation
- 3) He was preparing them for a miracle

## **3. The Limited Faith (8-9)**

Andrew brings report of boy with 5 loaves and two small fish. Just a typical lunch, made by a concerned mom for her young son. This is a fascinating part of the story. I wonder about two things:

- 1) How Andrew knew about the boy? (One on One visiting, Looking for food),
- 2) The faith of Andrew to even bring up such a small amount.

I like what I see in both cases.

#### 4. The Willing Volunteer (10-11)

Matthew then tells us they had the sit on the ground. At that point Jesus gave thanks and distributed the food to the people. 5,000 men. Before I get to the actual miracle, I want to consider the obvious, but unreported thing: **this boy was willing to give up his lunch.**

**Bible says Jesus took the loaves.** You can bet He did not take them by force. This little boy who must have had a caring mom was placed in unusual position.

**What were his options?**

**A. He could have kept it for himself.** Every Right.

**B. He could have shared it with few.** Friends.

**C. He could have thrown it away.**

Embarrassing. Many throw away influence, opportunity, talents

**D. He could have tried to feed them all himself.**

**E. He could have given it to Jesus.** That he did.

Once he did that there was no question about the outcome. Jesus takes the little things we give Him, and uses them to do great things. He uses small vessels and limited resources to win His greatest victories. David, Gideon, Fishermen.

**Great principle:**

*Take what I have, Thank God for it, give it away, and God blesses it.*

**God doesn't see raw materials as we do.** We tend to see how small or little the materials are. Who am I? I am nobody. I can do nothing! But God has bigger picture in mind. He sees not what we are, but what He can make of us.

**Do you ever look** at yourself and think you are nothing but a broken vessel, inadequate to be effective? The master can take you weak life and make something beautiful from it.

## 5. The Miracle of Jesus (11)

The miracle itself is not really described . . . just the result of it. We are not told how or where the bread and meat were multiplied, but clearly they were. Not only was there enough for everyone to have some, but there was **enough for everyone to be satisfied**. Those two things are not always the same.

**I grew up in a family of seven.** Road trips when we were young. **Stuckey's** stores were a treat. We all loved the pecan logs. I still do. By the time one of those logs is divided seven ways . . . we all got some, but no one was satisfied.

## 6. The Provision for the Disciples (12-13)

Jesus instructed the disciples to gather the leftovers. What a surprise (to them) that there were 12 baskets leftover. Wow! God is so cool.

## 7. The Confirmation of His Deity (14)

John points out that this sign, like the others, did what it was intended to do. Point people to the deity of Jesus.

Takeaways:

### 1. Nothing is impossible with God.

Two foot high fence is impossible hurdle to 2 month old baby. Not to parent. God sees our impossibilities like the parent sees the two foot high fence.

### 2. All He wants is what we have.

Isn't it great that He does not require what you do not have. Why? So he can multiply it, bless others, and ourselves. Everybody got blessed that day. The boy, the people, disciples. Imagine the story that boy told to his mom. Guess what, your lunch fed the whole crowd. God always sees more in us than we do.