

## John 6.1

### The feeding of the 5,000

**John 6:1-13** After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. 4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" 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 [b]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. 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."

- The feeding of the 5,000
  1. Mentioned in all four Gospels Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:34-44; Luke 9:10-17
  2. 5,000 men, not including women and children
- They followed Him because of the miracles He had performed
  1. Crowds are exciting; growth is exciting
  2. Jesus was not always excited by the size of the crowd, John 2:23-25, because Jesus knew their hearts; many were not following Jesus, just amazed by the miracles
  3. Some people stop following Jesus when things don't go their way
    - They have expectations, and their loyalty is conditional
    - Selfish followers who fall away and feel let down by Jesus
    - The parable of the sower, Matthew 13:18-23.
- There was a great multitude who came because of the Passover; these were people getting ready to go to Jerusalem
- Jesus has a compassionate heart for those in need,
  - That is how gracious Jesus is
- He asked Philip what they should do to feed the people
  1. Why Philip? Philip lived in a village nearby called Bethsaida nearby
  2. Jesus tested him
    - Test of trust
      - Will Philip trust the Lord at His word
      - Philip said 200 denary, 3/4 of a year's wage, 40-50K would not be enough
    - Philip calculated the cost of feeding the people
    - Philip had to see it; he was a pessimist. **John 14:1-10** Show us the Father, and it will be enough
    - Philip did the math but did not factor in Jesus
    - $1+1=2$      $1+1+\text{Jesus}=\text{infinite possibilities}$
    - Difficulty must always be measured by the capacity of the agent doing the work, and in this case, Jesus is the one doing the work
- Philip had seen Jesus work in the past pool of Bethesda, healing, and performing miracles,
  - Jesus was not asking someone who didn't know

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- **Andrew** brought the boy with five loaves and two fish to Jesus' attention
  1. Andrew was not a prominent apostle
    - Did not write any books of the New Testament
    - Did not give any sermons mentioned in the Scriptures
    - He was known as Peter's brother
    - Unknown and unnamed do not mean insignificant
  2. Andrew was very significant; he was a connector
    - He connected people to Jesus
    - He led Peter to Jesus
    - He and Philip led a group of Greeks to Jesus (see John 12:20-22)
    - Philip's name is in the new Jerusalem foundation, Revelation 21:14. **Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb**
    - We might not be a popular Christian or have a title, missionary, pastor, or apostle. But that does not mean insignificant.
      - The Lord knows us, our names are registered in heaven
      - We can connect people to Jesus just like Andrew
- The boy brought his food to Jesus
  1. John is the only gospel author who mentions the boy
    - It was not much food, but when you add Jesus to the equation, it could have been 500 thousand; the math would have still added up
    - It all depends on whose hands it is in
    - Let us put our lives, our hearts, our marriages, our families, our goals, and our dreams in the hands of Jesus
  2. A poor boy
    - Barley was the poorest of the grains, often fed to animals
    - Hearty, not tasty
    - Little dried or pickled fish
  3. Jesus had the people sit on the grass (see Matthew 14:19; Mark 6:39)
    - It was springtime, and the grass was green and lush
  4. Some of us see our lives as insignificant
    - We are precious in God's sight
    - He has given us everything we need to change the world
    - Instead of focusing on your littleness, focus on God's greatness
- Jesus gave thanks
  1. Typical prayer made by the father in the Jewish household
  2. The traditional prayer at Passover
- There was more than enough food for everyone
  1. Philip planned for the minimum, but Jesus provided the maximum
  2. He did more than was necessary. **Ephesians 3:20** **Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,**
  3. They had twelve baskets left over

**John 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."** 15 Therefore, when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the

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mountain by Himself alone. Because of this miracle, many people believed He was the Messiah that Moses said “another prophet like me”

1. Many had a different idea of the Messiah
2. They thought He would throw off the rule of Rome
  - The real need of the Jewish nation and the world was not Roman rule but the consequence of sin.
3. They wanted to turn it into a political movement and make Him King
4. He came to be the Savior first

**John 6:16** Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. 18 Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. 19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. 20 But He said to them, “**It is I**; do not be afraid.” 21 Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

- The Sea of Galilee
  1. Entirely below sea level, as is the entire Jordan Valley
  2. Winds from the Mediterranean Sea cause incredible storms
- A huge storm arose as the disciples were rowing across the Sea of Galilee
  1. They were on a spiritual high; they had just witnessed another miracle, and the last thing they expected was a storm
  2. This is how life works sometimes
  3. Jesus made them get into the boat Mark 6:45
  4. When you realize that God brings us to our life storms, it will revolutionize how you deal with pain
  5. It will let us know that God will never leave us and that He has a purpose for every storm
- They were afraid when Jesus came to them on the water
  1. It was the fourth watch of the night, 3 AM, and they had been rowing for about eight hours (see Mark 6:48)
  2. If you are praying for Jesus to deliver you from something, do not lose heart because it may not yet be the fourth watch
  3. We never read where Jesus is running, yet He was never late
- Storms do not last forever
  1. Trials are seasonal, not perpetual **1 Peter 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ
  2. God knows when the deliverance should come
  3. This storm was not a waste of time, there was a purpose. They would see the sovereignty of the Lord over nature itself
  4. They got to their destination and learned vital lessons along the way

### Closing

- Thinking of Jonah: Jonah paid the fare, but he never made it to his destination Jonah 1:3-17
  1. When you go your own way, you pay the fare and never make it to your destination
  2. When you go God's way, He pays the fare, and you get to your destination regardless of what storms come along the way
- The apostles willingly received Jesus

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1. Smartest thing they could have done
2. Let Jesus into your boat and let Him captain it for you