

“In His Hands”

John 6:1-15 NIV

INTRO

Good Morning church! It is so good to be here with you today. A special welcome to anyone who is watching with us online, say hello, let us know where you are watching from!

I have the absolute honor of sharing the word today! My name is Pastor Jacob, Im the youth pastor here at Newsong church

Right now we are in a series in the book of John and I don't know about you but I have been loving it. And I hope we keep loving it because we will be here for the majority of the year. I love this quote that Pastor Mike

shared when we first started this series ***“The book of John is shallow enough for a child to wade in and deep enough for an Elephant to swim in”***

Series Verse is found in John 20:31

31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

That really sets the tone for everything we’re reading.

John had a front-row seat to the miracles of Jesus, and so far what we’ve seen is that Jesus loves people—all kinds of people.

In chapter two, He blesses a wedding and turns water into wine. In chapter three, He speaks with a religious leader. In chapter four, He meets a Samaritan woman at a well, and then ends up staying in that town for three days as people come to believe in Him. In chapter five, He performs another miracle of healing a paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda . And today—we’re stepping into chapter six.

Just to give you a little hint as to where we are going today, I want to show you a picture.

The world's largest sandwich was created in 2005 , Weighing in at 5,540 Pounds!!! It was 12 feet long and 12 feet wide!! It had 150 pounds of Mustarard on it, 1000 pounds of corned beef , 200 pounds of cheese and 530 pounds of lettuce and of course, you can't forget the bread. Over 3000 pounds of bread!!!

If you didn't guess it already, we are about to read a passage of scripture that covers the biggest meal probably ever but , especially in the bible.

Most of you know it as the feeding of the 5,000, but that's just the men—when you include women and children, it could have been 10,000 people or more.

And maybe you're here today and you've heard this story before—maybe you feel like you're just scratching the crust, I mean the surface, of this story—but this miracle is much deeper than just Jesus feeding a crowd. Because while the people thought they needed food, what they really had was a deeper, spiritual hunger. And I believe that God is speaking to us through this story today.

PRAY

John 6: 1-15

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

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

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

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?”

10 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). 11 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.

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

14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” 15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

I don't know if you noticed this but John kinda has this habit of starting a passage with “some time after this” or “some time later” and he doesn't really specify on how long it's been.

It's like when you when you're waiting on someone and they running late and they say “hey I'll be there soon”
How long is soon!

John doesn't give us a clear time line or anything

Well some Bible scholars believe this moment takes place roughly 6 months to a year after the ending of chapter 5. Which explains why there are so many people following Jesus at this moment. His ministry and his popularity is nearing an all time high , because of the signs and wonders he has performed.

This miracle is one of Jesus most famous miracles and Did you know that It is the only Miracle performed by Jesus that is included in Matthew Mark Luke and John. and Because it is repeated, it has to be important!

But a lot of these people are just in it to see Jesus do something, they were following him for selfish reasons. They wanted to see the Miracles but they would never accept the miracle worker....

By the next passover some of those same people who were there to see a miraculous sign will be the very ones to shout crucify him.

The crowd just followed Jesus for the vibes, for the good luck charm, for the blessing but they would not accept the savior. They wanted to be the master and Jesus the servant but it's the other way around, Jesus is the master and we are his servants.

Let's go back to verse 3:

“Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near. 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?””

First thing for your notes is this!

1. “Problems Don't Escape God's View”

Jesus saw them coming and he saw their spiritual heart conditions and their need for a savior but he also saw their physical need! Jesus is so good and so kind, even though he knew the crowds' spiritual condition and they were just in it for the miracle , He still chose to meet their physical need. The problem all 10,000 of them were about to face

Friend, I want to remind you today that problems don't escape God's view. Your problems, whatever you brought in here today God sees you and he knows exactly what you are going through. The bible makes it very clear that if you are a child of God, you are under his special care!

Jesus makes it a point to bring this up when he's preaching the sermon on the mount.

Matthew 6:25-28

NIV

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

Have you ever seen a bird worry?

Have you ever seen a bird trying to figure out where they are gonna sleep or pay for rent this month?

Tell me a time when you saw a pigeon worrying about what they are gonna eat for dinner? Never

The birds in the sky are chipping and signing, they never worry about those things.

I love the specific words that Jesus uses in verse 26

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

It doesn't say the birds heavenly father feeds them...

Your Heavenly Father feeds them.

He is their creator but he is YOUR heavenly father....

How much more valuable are you to him than the birds?

Bird Poem:

Said the Robin to the Sparrow

“I should really like to know,

Why these anxious human beings

Rush around and worry so?”

Said the Sparrow to the Robin,

“Friend I think that it must be

That they have no Heavenly Father

Such as cares for you and me.”

Look what Peter says in

1 Peter 5:7

NLT

7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

God cares for you church! So we can call on him, when we are facing worry , you can trust your heavenly father!

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?” 6 He asked this

only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Philip he's a little bit of a pessimist, and if you didn't realize it before maybe you will now. Look how he responds to Jesus!

7Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Next thing for your notes is this, write this down

2. A Test reveals your faith

Didn't you notice that when you follow Jesus and you make him Lord of your life, you start to go through tests? And your next test is gonna be a little more

challenging than the last one. Its like the goal marker was just moved a little further, right beyond your limit. Why does he do that? To stretch us , to grow us. I can just hear Jesus saying do you trust me? Would you trust me a little bit deeper? That's the test.

So here we see a test from Jesus

Philip must be surprised Jesus would even ask him this question!

“Jesus, we dont have enough to feed all these people.

Let me do the math, Jesus there's 10,000 people here!

How on earth are we gonna find a bakery that's big

enough for all these people and how are we gonna even

pay for it??””

Jesus already knew what he was going to do but he asked Philip just to test him.

Hey so Phil, where do you think we can get enough to feed these people?

Jesus is presenting an impossible situation for man to achieve on his own.

Someone once said when God is gonna do something wonderful, he begins with a difficulty. And when he's gonna do something very wonderful , he begins with an impossibility.

Heres the test, Philip are you going to focus on what you can do or will you focus on what Jesus, the son of God can do?

Philip says well Jesus even if we work for 6 months we won't even have enough for everyone to take a bit!

So what did the test reveal about his faith?

It showed that he was focusing on what he could do with his own strength. He was calculating the cost of how to feed the people but heres where he made is mistake! He didn't factor in Jesus. Everything + you = Nothing... but Jesus + nothing = everything!!

Don't forget to count on God when you are facing a problem!!

You might be thinking well, Philip didn't realize it was a test, he didn't know what Jesus was going to do. It was reasonable to doubt.

But Philip was there when Jesus turned water into Wine, Philip was there when Jesus healed that boy who was miles away. Philip was there when Jesus healed the lame at the pool of Bethesda.

Philip should've said something to the effect of “Jesus , I don't know where we can find enough bread to feed all these people but I know you can do something! Ive seen you move in the past, I know you can fix this problem! This a problem that only you, the son Of God could fix!

8Another 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?"

10Jesus said, "**Have the people sit down.**"There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).

Now Philip may have failed his test but Jesus does not disqualify him. We also meet two more key people to this story, Andrew and the boy with the barley loaves and fish.

The book of John is the only book that mentions the boy. The rest just focus on the miracle. We don't know

his name, we dont know anything about him. Hes just a small town kid with his lunch. A few pieces of barley pita bread and some sardines.

But Unknown, unnamed, insignificant does not mean useless to God. Someone that's really little, or something that's so small , when placed in the Hands of Jesus, can bless the multitude, it can change the whole city in the hands of Jesus.

Jesus did not need these extra people to perform this miracle. He could have sent the fish flying out and the bread pop out from the ground. But he CHOSE to use the people. Jesus wants to use you and I in his Plans.

Someone here today or watching online might feel like I dont have what it takes, Im not gifted at all, Im not talented, im too young to preach, I'm too old to be used by God. How dare we focus on our littleness above his

GREATNESS. Jesus the king of King, the lord of Lords is asking you to trust him, trust him just a little bit more.

As christians we should not worry about what we have to offer, Once you place your life in his Hands, He will take care of the rest. God does not call the equipped or the most elite people, he equips the called!

3. God invites us to be a part of his plan

10 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).

Remember, there were 5,000 men there, so there were at least 10,000 or more people there with women and children. Can you imagine, trying to get 10,000 people to sit down?

Imagine it, being outside, its hot out, its crowded, there's no such things as deodorant.

EVERYONE! Jesus said to sitdown.... The first question they ask is why?? I Imagine the disciples looking at each other and then looking at Jesus and then back at each other, Jesus is going to do SOMETHING , just trust him. People are giving dirty looks and are hangry.

Being part of the miracle takes faith, it takes obedience! Thank God they were obedient even though they didn't fully understand and couldn't even imagine what Jesus was going to do.

11 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.

12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over.

Let nothing be wasted.”¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

There was so much bread there was enough for the disciples to fill a basket, not 1 but twelve baskets?? This is another example of provision that can only come from God. There is no way you can explain this without it being a miracle.

As I was studying this passage and reading different commentaries I learned something I never knew . What’s interesting is there are some people who believe this miracle was not a supernatural miracle. They believe It was a miracle of generosity

that everyone there actually brought their own food and no one wanted to share. Then when The little boy gave his

fish to Jesus, that moved everyone to share their packed lunches too.

That is not what the text says at all! You don't need to help Jesus out and say yeah everyone just felt like sharing and that's how everyone got to eat.

I know I was shocked too when I heard about this point of view.

This 100% is without a doubt a supernatural miracle of Jesus! If Jesus can raise the dead, Heal the sick, he can make multiple bread and fish!

Jesus is the miracle worker!

Church dont forget what Jesus can do in your life!

Jesus can be the change agent in your life! Jesus is enough! Without him none of this could even remotely

happen. I don't know what you are facing today, I don't know what you came in here with this morning. But would you trust Jesus a little more today?

I dare you. Give it to Jesus, Give him your fear, give him your worry, give him your doubts about yourself or the future. Give him your life. Watch what he will do!!

Remember what Philip said, Jesus, if I work for 6 months straight there won't be enough for everyone to have a bite!

When Jesus steps into the situation, he takes the small, the little, the weak and uses it for a mighty move! Philip, in his human thinking, thought there's no way this could ever happen. People will have to eat crumbs. Jesus blessed it and there are twelve baskets left over!

When Jesus has his hands in the mix, he can move beyond what we can think, ask for or imagine!

Lets see how the crowd responds to Jesus doing this miracle,

14After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” 15Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Right now Jesus’s popularity is soaring, that paired with this miracle, makes him even more popular. Then Jewish people are thinking, this is it! We got free Food, this guy is the king we are waiting for! They knew the old testament, this must be the Guy Moses was talking about! We need to make him King asap, right now!

Jesus knew this was in their hearts and guess what? He didn't want to become their political king. He wanted to be their savior!!

They were focused on their physical hunger being satisfied, but they completely missed their deeper spiritual need.

They wanted bread—but Jesus came to be the Bread of Life.

They wanted a king to serve them—but Jesus came to be a Savior who would transform them.

And the danger is—we can do the same thing. We can want Jesus for what He gives, but not surrender to who He is.

We can want the blessing, but not the Lordship. The crowd saw the miracle—but missed the Messiah.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Church, ***“The tragedy is the crowd saw Jesus as their potential political king, but failed to see with eyes of faith that He had come to be the spiritual King in***

their hearts. Is Jesus reigning in your heart or is Sin reigning”

Maybe you're here today and you realize that you are far away from God. Maybe you realize your heart condition is like the crowds from this passage, you know of Jesus... but he's not your personal savior.

Let me remind you, Jesus loves you, he died on the cross for you!

Once you confess your sins and make him lord of your life, you are his child! You are a son or a daughter of the living God. You don't have to work for his grace, it's already been bought by the blood of Jesus! Once you accept him you'll never be the same I promise you!

So with every head bowed for a moment, I just want to Pray

PRAY

there is nothing that can separate you from him! Not your mistakes, not your past, Nothing can separate you from his love!

Church, remember Your problems do not escape God's view! You, as a child of God, are under his special care!

Maybe you're here and you are facing your problems alone, maybe worry is running your life. God wants to take that away and be with you church!

Maybe you have felt small, insignificant. Child of God, let me remind you, You've been bought with a price, You are his masterpiece!!

Greater is he that is in you, then the one that is in the world!

PRAY