

The Misunderstood Miracle

John 6:1-15 ¹ 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. ⁵ 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 would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, 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?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. 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. ¹⁴ 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.

❖ Introduction

➤ **The Miracle is merely an intro into what Jesus is wanting us to see in Ch.6**

- The Miracle stands out as the primary thing doesn't it?
- Wow... Jesus fed 5,000 men, so maybe 20,000 people with just a little food
- That is nothing for God...
- And our physical appetite is not our real need....
- So, as we look into the miracle.... Have your mind looking forward to the rest of the chapter
 - And Jesus is going to just amaze these people with His teaching...
 - He is going to get to the heart of why he did this, and who He is...
 - And in so doing, you will see many turn away from Him...
- So, this sermon is simply the beginning.

❖ Recap

➤ **So That You May Be Saved...**

- 1) Jesus Heals the Lame Man on the Sabbath:
- 2) Jesus is Doing All of This So Men May Be Saved
- 3) Jesus Knows They Do Not Believe
- 4) Jesus Comes to The Courtroom with Proof (He Wants Them To Believe Him)
- 5) Jesus Knows That As Long As They Seek Glory From Each Other They will Never Seek God's Glory
- 6) Jesus Knew They had Set Their Hope Wrongly
- 7) Jesus Wants Them to Believe Him and Gain Life

➤ **Application**

- 1) Realize Your Dependency on God.
- 2) Seek the Will of God in All Things
- 3) Set Your Hope In Jesus, not something else...
- 4) Believe the Proof Jesus Gives
- 5) Be like Jesus in Your Desire to See Others Gain Life
- 6) Do not Seek the Glory of Men, and Miss Out on the Glory of God

❖ **Purpose:** (Not going to make you wait... I am going to go ahead and get to the punchline...)

➤ **Why did God heal the Lame man on the Sabbath**

- He wanted to glorify himself....
- He wanted to help people see who He really is...
- He was purposeful in this miracle...
- **Why does Jesus do the miracle of creating the bread and fish from just a few to feed 5,000**
 - For the similar reason of opening up their eyes and ears to who He is.
 - He is showing His glory to the people.
 - So the hearers and seers might be able to truly hear and see who He is.

❖ The Setting

- ¹ 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.
- **After the healing of the lame man on the Sabbath, and His teaching there...**
 - **Specific Place: Went to the other side of the sea of Galilee...**
 - Not an abstract story “Once upon a time in a land far far away”
 - **And people followed Him because of His healing on the sick....**
 - SIGNS.... So... the lame man was not alone in being healed...
 - There must have been many more...
 - And the people were just amazed, and following Him everywhere...
 - **So Jesus went up on the mountain there....**
 - And he sat down... with His disciples...
 - It is on the mountain that we always see God teaching His servants in the O.T.
 - HE taught Moses from the Mountain, and Abraham
 - **Timing: Specific Timing...**
 - During Passover...
 - ◆ So this is right after His healing of the lame man...
 - ◆ The Passover....The feast of the Jews.... Same phrase used in ch 5
 - It is important to God that He document for us when this occurred...
 - All of this is so the miracle could be double checked by those who heard this then...

❖ His Disciples Still had a Lack of Belief

- ⁵ 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 would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸ One of his disciples, 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?”
- **Philip**
 - The 4th disciple we see Jesus calling in ch 1
 - Philip is the one who went and got Nathaniel
- **Andrew**
 - Was the one of the first (remember there were two standing with John Baptist)
 - One was Andrew, who then went and told Peter...
- **Both had been with Jesus from the beginning**
 - They saw Him tell Nathaniel what He was doing even though Jesus wasn’t there...
 - They both saw Him turn all that water into wine... A LOT of wine....
 - They both heard John the Baptist speak of how great Jesus is, and who He is...

- They both saw Him transform that town in Samaria by is Word..
- They both knew He healed the official's son...
- The both saw Him heal the lame man of 38 years...
- And I assume they were there for all His other miracles on the sick... (They were probably numerous)

➤ **Yet they are looking at this from an earthly perspective...**

- **Jesus Question to Philip was a little misleading... but Philip took it and never understood it**
 - Jesus did not ask Him... (How can I feed these people?)
- **Jesus says... "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?"**
 - And We know Jesus asked it this way to test Philip....
 - Jesus already knew what He would do...
- **Philip and Andrew fail the test...**
 - **Philip simply gives up...(very funny)**
 - ◆ ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."
 - ◆ Philip says... a 8 months worth of wages wouldn't feed them....
 - **Andrew tries to figure out a way on His own...**
 - ◆ ⁸ One of his disciples, 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?"
 - ◆ So... Andrew like many of us... He says... I don't want to just stand around and do nothing...
 - Lets just get to it... and see what we can figure out...
 - Lets find a way to solve this problem
 - So, he comes back with a boy's food...
- **They both lacked Faith**

➤ **Why is it that after All God has done for us that we still lack faith?**

❖ **The Little Boy was Generous with All He had.**

- ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"

➤ **This Boy was prepared...**

- Out of all these people... when He went out to see Jesus...
- His mommy sent some food with Him....

➤ **The Boy and the Mommy were prepared.... And Generous...**

- Don't just think about the boy...
- His Mom made His food for Him... I assume this is the case...
- He is a boy, and He has bread and fish... I assume His mother sent it with Him...

➤ **The Boy**

- Was sitting there, and everyone was hungry, and here comes Andrew...
- And Andrew is looking for food to feed the multitude...
- And the little boy gives up all His food...
- In an act of generosity and Faith...

➤ **The Boy was Generous and had Faith...**

- What little boy do you know that is quick to give up His own food...
- Little boys do not often do that...
- They hold on to that food....
- But, I think this boy trusted that He would be taken care of...

➤ **The Boy Knew He Was Just the Fed-Ex Guy**

➤ **Children and Youth:**

- That is a good lesson for you to learn... Be thankful if you have a good mother...

- And be generous with what you have been given
- **How often do we offer up everything we have for others? (Generosity)**
- **How often do we give up stuff, trusting that God will provide? (Faith)**
- **Or Do We normally hold on to what We Have and Expect others to give to us?**

❖ **Jesus Turned a Little into A lot**

- ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. 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.
- **As Jesus so often does.... He multiplies our Gifts...**
 - Mark 12:42-44 ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

❖ **Jesus Wasted None of the Food**

- 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.
- **So that Nothing may be lost**
 - Jesus is making a point, I believe, to teach us two things....
 - **1) Don't be wasteful**
 - ◆ It is important that we do not take for granted what we are given, and be wasteful...
 - **2) Symbolic...**
 - ◆ The Disciples gathered what was left...
 - ◆ A picture of His servants gathering in a harvest of souls...
 - ◆ And Jesus says... none will be left... He will gather in all His children...

❖ **The Miracle Declared Who He was**

- ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"
- **The Prophet:**
 - Deuteronomy 18:15,18,19 ¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.... ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.
- **They Thought He was like Moses...**
 - But He was so much more... And He wants them to know this...
 - They all had such high thoughts on Moses...
 - Moses was, by the way... the one who provided them with Bread and Water in the desert
- **He is Greater than Moses... Because it was Through Moses that Jesus fed them in the desert...**
 - Jesus was the author of their provision
 - Jesus is saying.... I do not just give Bread.... I am the Bread...

❖ **The People Wanted Him to Be King**

- ¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king,
- **The People wanted Him to Be king because He filled up their bellies...**

- John 6:26-27 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. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”

➤ **Jesus is King, but not that Kind of King**

- They were looking for an earthly king... they were a proud nation
- The Nation of the Great King David...
- And they were being ruled by Gentiles, outsiders... the Romans...
- They saw in Jesus and answer to their problems...
 - A Miracle worker...

➤ **A King to feed me, not take my food**

- They saw Him as a better alternative to the kings that taxed them...
- They saw this Jesus to be one who would be Generous with them...
- This King would not need our money for food, cause He can make His own...
- Who wouldn't want a king like that?

❖ **Jesus Withdrew**

- **Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.**

➤ **To me... This is just a WOW moment in the text...**

- What was going on here... What was the problem...
- I think this statement is supposed to shock us a little...
- And when the scriptures want to shock us...
 - It is because there is something very important for us to hear!

➤ **Why did Jesus Withdraw? Why didn't Jesus want to be their Earthly King?**

- They were coming to Him for the wrong reasons...
 - They were believing on Him in the wrong way...
- He came to DIE.....!
 - Without Dying.... There is no Life for us!

➤ **How Often do We try to benefit from Jesus, because of the stuff He can give to us?**

- **And not because of who He is!**
- **This is remnants of the Health and Wealth or Prosperity Gospel...**
- This Jesus is cool.... And powerful... I like Him.... Lets see what we can get from Him...
 - Now I understand... We need to get from Jesus.... Without Him we have nothing...
 - But what are we trying to get from Him...
- **We need Jesus for the Salvation of our Souls...**
 - Not the filling of our Pocket books and homes and cars...
 - All these things will pass away...
 - But the life we gain from salvation in Jesus... is eternal....

➤ **How Do We Act When We Do Not Get What We Want From Jesus?**

- **Do We Walk Away? Remember the parable of the Sower?**
 - This is the reason there were three types of grounds that were not saved...
 - **1) One never got it... never heard, never saw, they were too hard...**
 - **2) The second liked this Jesus that could give them things,**
 - ◆ this gospel where they saw a powerful Jesus that would enhance them...
 - ◆ but when they were persecuted or spoken of unkindly,
 - ◆ they ran from Jesus instead of to Jesus
 - ◆ because they came to the wrong Jesus for the wrong things...

- ◆ Not to receive the bread that would give them eternal life,
- ◆ but the bread that would enhance their image...
- **3) The third type of ground came to the wrong Jesus**
 - ◆ because they did not understand the gospel either.
 - ◆ They ran from him when he called for them to get rid of their sinful passions and desires
 - ◆ and follow him... and the temptations of this world choked out the gospel in their lives

❖ Jesus is Purposeful with this Miracle

➤ In What Way is He Purposeful?

- I mentioned that He wants to open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf

➤ But How?

▪ 1) He Wants to Display His Power...

- He is showing them that He controls all things...

▪ 2) By Showing the people He is the Bread of Life

- The Miracle was in a sense an object lesson of who He is
- The creating of the bread would open a time of teaching for the people.
 - ◆ John 6:35 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.

➤ What is He talking about here?

▪ They were going to be hungry again after they ate...

- We all will be...
- We eat to sustain our physical life...
- We need bread (food) perpetually to continue living....

➤ But Jesus is offering Himself as bread.... For our soul's eternal life

- He wants them to stop looking at things from a physical point of view...
- That is not their greatest need
- He says... If they will eat the bread He gives they will never hunger again...

➤ So... How does this bread make it so we never hunger again?

- It gives us eternal life... and the bread from Jesus feeds us Forever...
- FOREVER....

➤ So... How do we get this bread...?

▪ Right after Jesus says this:

- John 6:27 ²⁷ Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.
 - ◆ They are asking the same question that I just asked.... How do we get this bread...
- Jesus answers:
 - ◆ John 6:28-29 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.”
 - ◆ **By Believing!**

❖ Invitation

➤ Are you believing on the right Jesus...

- There He was... standing in front of them as plain as day...
- Explaining who He was to them, by His works, and By His words....

➤ Yet they still did not know Him...

➤ Remember... back in John 2

- John 2:23-25 ²³ Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them,

because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

- **Now here we see... They wanted Jesus...**
 - Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.
- **Are You believing on the Real Jesus.... For the Real Reason....?**
 - You ask Who is the Real Jesus... What is the Real Reason....
 - SIMPLY: He is the Lamb of God
 - SIMPLY: You will die in your sins, unless they be taken away by Jesus