

That you may believe

Introduction

- Good evening everyone.
- recently we have been going through a series called [That you may believe](#).
- This series has been focusing on the miracles of Jesus found in John's Gospel
- I hope as we have been making our way through this series you have had an eye opening experience. seeing Jesus as He really is - God in the flesh.
- The idea of faith in today's world is an idea that is met with a lot of skepticism. Miracles don't happen. We need a clear reason for why things happen, and believing in something which may not always have empirical evidence is crazy.
- On many occasions in this book we see Jesus interacting with the Pharisees. He generally gives them a good working over, telling them their fortune and seeing straight through their hypocritical and shallow ways.
- Jesus knew they missed it, they had witnessed miracles right in front of them, and they still did not see Jesus for who He is.
- Don't be like the Pharisees and miss Jesus, He wants to reveal Himself to you. Maybe for the first time, or perhaps in a new, fresh way.
- Tonight we are focusing on Jesus feeding the 5000, recorded in Chapter 6 of John. Let's begin with some context before we read.
- Firstly we need to remember that the Gospel of John focuses and points us towards the deity of Christ, on Him being God, not just man. Each of the Gospels were written with a particular audience in mind, Matthew was aimed at the Jews, Mark at the Romans, Luke at the Greeks and John was for everyone, but as I mentioned, it focuses on the Miracles of Jesus and His Godness. (if that's a word) He is God.
- We read this account at a point when Jesus had been performed many miraculous signs. He now was far into his public ministry.
- He had also gained quite a following.
- In the previous chapter Jesus has just healed a lame man. (Lame not referring to someone who is a loser, or is boring) no this man was lame - he couldn't move. Neil preached on the healing of a lame man last week.
- Now people were amazed by this, however, the stinky lizards, the white washed tombs, the brewed of wrinkly vipers, were not impressed and confronted Jesus. (it was a sabbath)
- By 'law' no one was to do any work on the sabbath, and healing was work, so it was a no no!
- Then we pick up the story in John Chapter 6. Let's read together:

1After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. 2A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. 3Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. 4(It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.)

- So lets set the scene here:
- So we see that Jesus Crosses over the Sea of Galilee, this is just after His encounter with the Pharisees.
- We also see that Jesus was far into His public ministry, because of all His miracles He had gained quite a following.
- It seems that Jesus was seeking some quality time with His disciples, so he climbs a Hill and sits down with them.
- It is also nearly the time of the Passover, which is a celebration of the freeing of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. We notice that this is in brackets, which indicates some extra information. We will get to that in a minute.

5Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, “Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?” 6He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

- Crazy! Its sometimes hard to put this into perspective. Like did a massive crowd sneak up on Jesus? How does that happen, when we see the number of people, surely that kind of crowd is very noticeable.
- In fact in the other Gospels, like Matthew, Mark and Luke, it kind of gives us a better perspective.
- Some of the Gospels paint in some details that are not mentioned here in John. In Matthew it mentions that Jesus actually was seeking a solitary place. But when he crossed the Sea of Galilee He saw the crowds and he had compassion on them.
- In fact the disciples tell Jesus to send the crowds away to go find food themselves.
- So this kind of gives us a bigger picture, or a clearer one.
- Here we see Jesus ask Philip a question **“Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?”**
- I wonder if Jesus had a smirk on his face. Some say the reason he asked Philip is, that Philip lived in the area and would of known where to buy.
- It goes on to say that he was testing Philip.
- Have you been in a spot where Jesus has tested you?

- This scripture gives us an insight.
- There is no situation that God or Jesus doesn't know what He going to do.
- We fret, we worry, we sit with anxiety and stress. I know I am like that.
- I have spent many sleepless nights worrying about the outcome of a situation, or a circumstance.
- There has been moments when I know, in my own strength, I do now have the ability to see it through.

But Jesus knows already what He is going to do. I love that.

7Philip replied, “Even if we worked for months, we wouldn’t have enough money6:7 Greek Two hundred denarii would not be enough. A denarius was equivalent to a laborer’s full day’s wage. to feed them!”

8Then Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up. 9“There’s a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?”

10“Tell everyone to sit down,” Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) 11Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted.

- Clearly Philip here is on a different wave length.
- Now Andrew points out this little boy, not sure why, because he kind of thinks, well this is useless! But its like hey Jesus, here is a little boy, he has some food, maybe?
- Now it mentions that there are 5000 men. Some commentators say that it was customary for men to only be counted, which means that this number excludes women and Children.
- If you then add a wife per person, and then even 1 Child you are already sitting at 15000.
- So the number very quickly grows.
- Now picture this scene, Jesus give thanks for what the boy has given Him, and then what?
- This is the part I actually struggle to picture, does the sky begin to rain loaves of bread, do Fish start falling from the sky?
- It doesn't really share how exactly the fish and loaves get multiplied. But it must of been an amazing scene or picture to witness.

12After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” 13So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

14When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!”. 15When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

- So there was so much food that they ate and were full, and also there were twelve baskets left.

- To give some context to the last verses from verse 14, Firstly this particular miracle was prophesied about in the old testament. So the people knew the signs, and then they put two and two together and then wanted to anoint Jesus as King.
- Now Jesus ran away, why? He is the King, the messiah. But it was not His time, He didn't come to rule over them like David, or to liberate them from Roman oppression.
- He came to do something far greater, To liberate us from death.
- So what can we learn from this passage, how does it apply to us today. Well there are three things I feel God wants us to take with us tonight.

1) Jesus is our provider:

- Firstly Jesus is our provider.
- This miracle is an exact picture of how God provided for His people in the desert some years ago.
- Manna fell from the heavens. Now manna was a type of heavenly bread. It provided the Israelites with all they needed, in nutrients and sustenance.
- Jesus is our living bread, our manna, it is in Him and through Him we have life.
- In fact from John 6:22 Jesus claims he is the bread of life.
- We see here there are two main ways God provides for us 1) He is our Physical provider, He gives us food, but also 2) He provides Life through Jesus.
- Through Jesus we have life, he is our spiritual bread. He gives our souls nutrients

2) Jesus call us to participate

- Is it not amazing that the disciples worked with Jesus in this miracle.
- Sure they didn't multiply the bread and fish themselves, but Jesus involved them. They had first hand experience.
- Also the little boy came with only 5 loaves and some fish and God used what He had. There is active participation.
- God calls us to be active participates in the Kingdom, in what He is doing.
- Today's culture is very good at observing, but not participating.
- We warm the seats here at Church and we talk the lingo, but we actually don't participate.
- Jesus says come follow me, drop everything, participate. He demands all of us, not just a Sunday, or a Wednesday Night at cell group, but everything.

and lastly

3) Jesus can do the impossible

- This story is a classic example of How Jesus, even though faced with enormous obstacles, can overcome them. He can do the impossible!
- All things are possible through Him who gives us strength.
- It also shows us that, God can take the very little we have to offer. The boys fish and bread, and can do amazing things.
- All it requires is for us to be willing to give all we have.
- You might think that all you have to offer is insignificant. I am no public speaker. I am no leader.
- I am such a stuff up, or I have done too many bad things for me to offer anything to Jesus.
- Well I can tell you first hand, that stand here tonight is a big stuff up. There are moments when I think over the decisions I have made, and some of the circumstances I find myself in and I think what do I have to offer?
- The great thing is that this life isn't about you! Its not about what you can do, but rather what Jesus can do through you.
- Jesus can take all that you have! No matter how small! and he can use it to do great things.
- All he requires from you is Obedience and a soft heart to the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION

- Do you know Jesus as a provider? Are you relying on Him to supply all your needs.
- Do you believe that God has a plan for your life, and that He wants you to participate in His Kingdom Agenda.
- Jesus can take your little and turn it into a lot, He has the power to do the impossible.